Gunnar Tailings Remediation Project Update

SRC had a productive season in 2019 working on the Gunnar Tailings Remediation Project. Fond du Lac Nuna Joint Venture (FDLNJV) continued to haul waste rock to the Gunnar Main Tailings. This part of the project is nearing completion. FDLNJV began placing clean borrow material on the Gunnar Main Tailings and Gunnar Central Tailings in 2019, which signalled we’re nearing the final phases of tailings remediation.

In addition to these activities, FDLNJV began preparing the drainage channels through the tailings landforms and also started the 2020 cover placement work in the Langley Bay Tailings. Environmental monitoring occurred throughout the 2019 season.

Gunnar Other Site Aspects Update

The amended detailed design for the Gunnar Other Site Aspects Remediation Project was reviewed by regulators. They provided conditional approval and gave SRC permission to move forward with most of the remediation activities under the project scope.

SRC has executed the contract agreement with QMPoints for work related to the Gunnar Other Site Aspects Remediation Project, which is expected to take five years to complete. The contractor started on-site remediation activities in July 2019. The current work includes legacy debris and hazardous waste collection, excavation and treatment of acid generating materials, and area preparation for construction of two landfills to dispose of demolition debris and other legacy waste. Future activities include installing steel covers over mine openings, and rip-rap and soil covers over the waste rock piles and other gamma-impacted areas on the site.

SRC has executed the contract agreement with SRK Consulting for Engineering Support and Quality Assurance/Quality Control for the Gunnar Other Site Aspects Remediation Project.

Lorado Mill Site Photo Contest—Extended!

The Project CLEANS team is gathering photos of the tailings cover area at the former Lorado Mill Site to document ecosystem recovery following remediation completion. They need your help! Email your best wildlife, landscape and vegetation photos of the tailings cover area taken between 2017-2019 by October 15, 2019 to cleans@src.sk.ca and you could win one of six $100 Visa gift cards and SRC branded gear.

This contest is open to residents of the Athabasca Basin. Visit the contest page for complete contest details and the entry form: www.src.sk.ca/loradocontest.
Satellite Sites
Remediation activity was busy during summer 2019 at the Satellite Sites, including Cayzor, Cinch/Cenex, Nesbitt Labine Eagle, Rix-Athabasca Leonard, Rix-Athabasca Smitty, and Strike Lake.

Sand and waste rock covers were placed on areas with elevated gamma radiation levels. One opening was closed with a stainless steel cap and one opening will be backfilled later this fall. Remediation perimeter fencing is being installed around hazardous underground areas. This work will be completed in the fall. Remediation should be completed at five sites in the Uranium City area once these activities are complete. The sites will be monitored in future years to ensure physical and environmental stability.

This fall, SRC will survey these sites to confirm that radiological objectives have been met. SRC invites community members to tour the Satellite Sites this fall to see the completed work.

If you are interested in joining a tour, please contact us at cleans@src.sk.ca.

Aboriginal Mentorship Program
Another successful year of our Aboriginal Mentorship Program (AMP) is complete! Thanks to the students who worked hard to develop new skills and the mentors who provided unique learning opportunities. We’re now accepting applications for AMP 2020. Visit SRC’s AMP webpage for more details: http://www.src.sk.ca/amp

Ashley Carlson was one of four students in this year’s program. She worked with a variety of scientists and researchers and learned that there are a wide range of career options to consider for environment science students. She wanted to try as many different areas as possible while at SRC and as you’ll read in her blog post, it allowed her to apply what she learned at university to real-world projects (including time spent working on Project CLEANS). Read more about Ashley’s experience at https://src.nu/amp19

Meet Our Team: Mila Vaquerano
Mila joined the Project CLEANS team in November 2018. She has an Environmental Systems Engineering degree and a Biochemistry degree from the University of Regina. She has worked with SaskPower and as a consultant with Colliers Project Leaders. Since graduating, Mila’s goal has always been to contribute to remediation projects.

Mila was born in El Salvador and raised in Regina, Saskatchewan. She enjoys gardening, composting, hiking, rowing, running and spending time with family.

Blog: From the Lab to the Loading Dock
In our latest post, learn about SRC’s approach to closing abandoned mine openings in northern Saskatchewan: https://src.nu/mineopenings