

Hampton Inn Saskatoon – September 20, 2018

Attendees

- SRC: Skye Ketilson, Christopher Reid, Mark Calette, Ian Wilson, John Sprague, Jennifer Brown, Krista Shotton, Jocelyn Allard
- Trevor Podaima (SRK)
- Earl Cook (Métis Nation-Saskatchewan)
- Tiffany Toutsaint (Fond du Lac)
- Mary M. Sha'Oulle (Wollaston)
- Allen Augier (Uranium City)
- Peter Piochion (Stony Rapids)
- Merv McDonald (Stony Rapids)
- Mark Langdon (Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC))
- Ronnie Augier (Fond du Lac)
- Chief Louie Mercredi (Fond du Lac)
- George Bihun (Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment)
- President Glen McCallum (Métis Nation-Saskatchewan)
- Fred Martin (Fond du Lac)
- Danny Augier (Stony Rapids)

Accompanying Presentation:

<https://www.src.sk.ca/resources/gunnar-other-site-aspects-presentationsept18>

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Welcome and safety
3. Meeting attendees and CNSC introductions
4. Video of Gunnar Site
5. Presentation by Skye Ketilson, Gunnar Other Site Aspects Project Manager
6. Questions and answers
7. Closing remarks and prayer

Discussion:

Q. Is there crushed waste rock at the tank farm?

A. Yes, anywhere it looks like there's "convenient gravel," it's actually crushed waste rock.

Q. Will the (new) landfills be monitored by piezometer?

A. Yes.

Q. What is the pH level of the water in the pit?

A. It is between seven and eight, which is fairly neutral. There was a trace study done to see where the water from the acid plant goes, and it goes from the acid plant to the pit. It's trickling a little there, but the water isn't that impacted. We are continually monitoring the levels, and if they increase, we have a plan in place.

Q. How many years was the mine in operation?

A. About 10 years. Construction began in 1953-54 then operated for nine years.

Q. Have there been studies done on the surface that sat under the old fuel farm? Are there traces of fuel in the waste rock? Have you looked beyond the surface? There was a similar fuel farm left in Fond du Lac by SaskPower that is classified as Class A, which is urgent.

A. There were drilling programs in place to see first how far down it goes. The fuel has likely seeped through all layers underground and to the lake, but the heavier material may still be sitting there. We can dig this out and place it in the landfill. If there is Bunker C in the cracks and crevasses we will remove it. We also have a plan for a regrade of the area, and we will retest it.

Q. Why isn't land farming an option (for potential hydrocarbon impacted material)?

A. Land farming was an option discussed, but it takes so long to complete and unfortunately the seasons aren't long enough. We looked at the cost to ship excavated material off site or bag it and leave it on site. If it is left on site, it will be closely monitored.

Q. How deep will the liner go down for the asbestos storage? How do you know there will be no seepage?

A. Landfill A, where the asbestos containing material is being disposed of, will be built like all other asbestos disposal landfills in Saskatchewan. This does not include a liner, as asbestos is not mobile like other contaminants once covered but will include an appropriately thick cover to contain the material properly.

In regards to the risk of seepage for pH impacted material, the plan is to excavate (within Landfill B footprint) to expose the bedrock base, seal the bottom, then place pH impacted material on top and cover it with a clay liner. This will keep water from reaching the pH impacted material and will keep it contained within the landfill.

Q. At the presentation in Fond du Lac, you said there would be a liner. Why has the design changed without consulting the people?

A. The language used in these presentations was "liner." We didn't specify the material it would be made of. We apologize for this oversight. It was always the plan to use a more natural material (clay liner) and avoid any synthetic materials as natural materials have a longer shelf life. We want to do it right the first time.

Q. Are you burying the asbestos material?

A. We are. It is currently stored in double-lined bags.

Q. How toxic is the asbestos? Is this the best approach?

A. This is the standard in Saskatchewan to handle this. Bury it a minimum one meter down and cover it to ensure it doesn't become airborne.

Q. Will the asbestos find its way into the water and affect us in 5-10 years?

A. Water won't move it when it is buried. Asbestos is a natural material and is harmful when it is airborne, which is why we bury it.

Q. Can you explain the scrap material from Gunnar that came into Stony?

A. As far as we are aware, we haven't moved anything yet. We will look into this.

*Later confirmed this material came from Charlotte River, not Gunnar.

Q. How are you going to move the friable asbestos?

A. When a contractor is hired, we will assess how they plan to do this. If it is something they can't do safely, we will hire another contractor.

Q. Will you fence off the pit once the project is completed?

A. We are currently exploring options here. Because there is water in the pit, it's a different situation. We have a grading plan to make sure the slopes of the pit aren't too steep and currently have ideas submitted to the regulators, so we'll see what they say.

Q. For your liner/clay, what is the supply like?

A. There isn't a lot, but we have more than we need to place the required amount of one meter thick on top.

Q. Is there a plan for vegetation on the waste rock covers?

A. There is a plan for that. We are currently looking into the most natural option and will continue to work with the elders on natural plants for the area. We will do another workshop if there is a demand for one.

General Comments

- General discussion, comments, highlights
 - "This mine has been around for 60 years. It's a real eyesore. Human health is affected for those who work/surround this legacy mine."
 - CNSC/SRC have done a great job in involving/engaging northern communities.
 - SRC has exceeded the level of remediation in the north. We look forward to working with them in the future.
 - Appreciate that a northern company is working on the cleanup; looking forward to the third phase. SRC has exceeded safety and engagement levels.
 - Communities will support any contractor as long as policies are supported.
 - Appreciates inclusion of Métis people.
 - "Cost should never be an issue when making decisions about cleanup."
 - The large boulder slopes will work the best for the waste rock slopes.