



Project CLEANS News

FALL 2024—ISSUE 15

HIGHLIGHTS

Gunnar Remediation Project Update

This year, the focus of the Gunnar Mine and Mill remediation project was the construction of the Langley Bay Tailings (LBT) cover. QM Points Contracting LP (QM Points) was selected for this scope of work through public procurement. The construction season started in April and finished in Mid-November. The cover consists of different layers of sand that will be seeded with native plants. Sorted blast rock is placed on the shorelines to protect against erosion to protect the shoreline. Since the start of the remediation project, approximately 1.2 million m³ of waste rock, 980,000 m³ of sand, and 70,000 m³ of sorted blasted rock have been moved and placed for the remediation of Gunnar.

Biologists have been on site during in-water and near water work to ensure that fish habitat is not affected during construction by isolating in-water work areas with silt curtains, salvaging fish from the isolated areas before starting work, and monitoring turbidity. No issues have been noted. Other activities this year have included the repairs of channels, development of additional borrow pits to extract sand, and reclamation of exhausted borrow pits.

Inspection of the completed tailings covers and other site features (radiation covers, landfills, etc.) have shown that they are performing as anticipated. Minor deficiencies identified have been addressed or will be addressed before completion of remediation.

With the remediation of the site anticipated to be completed in fall 2025, SRC has initiated the planning of post-remediation monitoring activities. A post-remediation monitoring program has been submitted to regulators and Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources for review. SRC also hired the consulting firm AtkinsRéalis through public procurement to help develop and implement the groundwater monitoring portion of the post-remediation monitoring.

Please remember that there is a no fishing advisory in Zeemel Bay and Langley Bay.



Pic 1: View from South Waste Rock Pile at Gunnar Site



Pic 2: Rip Rap places in the shore of Langley Bay Tailings cover

Gunnar Camp Decommissioning

As part of the decommissioning process for the camp at Gunnar Mine and Mill in Northern Saskatchewan, SRC is selling the camp infrastructure and inviting interested parties to submit proposals. Proposals will be evaluated based on criteria to emphasize transparency and community benefit. If you're interested, more information and the proposal process is . Please email gunnarrecords@src.sk.ca for details. Submission deadline for proposals is January 7th, 2025.

Community Meetings

SRC is currently in discussions with community leaders about meetings for June, 2025. More information will be provided to the communities shortly.

Watch our latest project update videos:

English: <https://src.nu/3CnE65C>

Dene: <https://src.nu/4eZFadz>

If you have any questions about the project, please email us at cleans@src.sk.ca.

Aramark

If you are interested in camp employment opportunities for the Gunnar Other Site Aspects Remediation Project, please contact Shelagh Wager.

Email: wager-shelagh@aramark.ca

QMPoints

If you are interested in employment and supplier opportunities for the Gunnar Site Remediation Project, please contact QMPoints.

Fax: 1-306-652-4652

Email: apply@qmpoints.com

Keith.Gonda@qmenv.com

Website: www.qmpoints.com

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2023 IEMP Results for Gunnar/Lorado/Beaverlodge

As part of its regulatory oversight, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) implements the Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) to verify monitoring carried out by licencees such as SRC. SRC is licenced under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* for the Lorado Mill and Gunnar Mine and Mill remediation projects. In 2023, CNSC staff collected samples in publicly accessible areas near the sites. A summary of the results is made available on CNSC website: [Independent Environmental Monitoring Program: Beaverlodge, Gunnar and Lorado \(cnsccsn.gc.ca\)](https://www.cnsccsn.gc.ca). Please contact CNSC or SRC if you have any questions.

Satellite Sites

The Satellite Sites had a vigorous field season in 2024, completing full remediation at three sites (i.e., Caba, Territorial and Uranium Ridge Mines). These sites were accessed via helicopter (Caba and Territorial) and land vehicles on Goldfields Road (Uranium Ridge). The risk assessment for the wetland at Uranium Ridge, which was initiated in 2021, was completed. At Caba and Territorial, the legacy mining debris were either buried on-site or disposed off-site. The mine openings (i.e., the shaft and the adit) at Caba and Territorial, respectively, were backfilled with waste rock; a remediation perimeter fence was also installed around the shaft at Caba to provide additional safety support in protecting the public from accessing the hazardous unstable underground workings. Post-remediation gamma surveys were also conducted at all completed sites to verify that areas with elevated gamma radiation levels were mitigated.

Other remediation work performed during this field season included avian and vegetation surveys, legacy mining debris collection, gamma surveys, and environmental sampling at multiple sites. Initiated in 2023, the mine openings at Murmac have completed backfill closure. Soil covers were also constructed at Murmac and Lorado Mine to mitigate areas with elevated gamma levels. Additionally, the soil covers done at Lorado Mine mitigate the impact of acid generation from the waste rock pile to the surrounding environment. A general site inspection at Murmac was also performed in the aftermath of the Wabba Lake forest fire (which affected Murmac); no issues were reported on the remediation structures installed. In preparation for future remediation work, a geotechnical assessment was conducted at the adit in Reed Bay and an environmental risk assessment was continued for Nicholson.

SRC has completed remediation at 27 sites. The remaining eight sites require varying levels of assessment. Transitional monitoring inspections were carried out this year at nine sites and was completed this year for N.L. ABC and Gulch Mines. Several site inspections were conducted with the Ministry of Environment to ensure the remediation work completed is stable.

Of the 27 completed sites, seven have received the Ministry of Environment's approval for release from decommissioning and reclamation, and four have been transferred to the provincial Institutional Control Program (ICP).



Pic 1: Backfilled shaft and remediation perimeter fence installed at Caba



Pic 2: Gamma mitigation at Murmac



Pic 3: Sand cover at Lorado Mill



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Lorado Mill Site

Remediation of the former Lorado Mill Site was completed in 2016. Since then, SRC has monitored the site and performed maintenance as needed. The site continues to be stable and is revegetating as anticipated. In 2024, geotechnical monitoring was continued at the Landbridge to ensure long-term stability of the site features. Plans are underway for work in 2025, which will involve a comprehensive engineer inspection of the tailings cover and a fish survey at Nero Lake. These monitoring efforts will continue to support the eventual transfer of the remediated site to the Government of Saskatchewan’s ICP.

SRC and the Communities

Community meetings have been a cornerstone of SRC’s commitment to the Athabasca region since the inception of Project CLEANS. Conducting the meetings this year presented its own set of challenges, with unpredictable weather impacting our planned meetings in January and February. The team met with Uranium City community members in the beginning of the year to provide updates on the project, but subsequent community meetings in other locations within the region were postponed due to unforeseen freezing rain preventing our representatives from leaving Uranium City. To ensure meaningful discussions with the communities, subsequent meetings were held in June

In June, our journey began at Hatchett Lake, where we hosted a barbeque lunch and learn session followed by a question and answer session. The next day, our team traveled north to Black Lake, where we started the day with a pancake breakfast and held discussions about the project timeline and potential post-construction land use scenarios. We concluded our second day in Stony Rapids with another barbeque lunch and learn session and question and answer session.

Our final stop on this years’ community tour was Fond du Lac, where we held another barbeque and engaged in discussions about the 2023-24 season. During this visit, we met with Chief Augier to re-affirm our open-door policy regarding topics related to Project CLEANS and potential opportunities for SRC to provide a positive impact within the communities.

Throughout the tour, we connected with numerous community members, as well as the Chief and Council. We consider this tour a successful experience, as do the representatives that joined us for the trip from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, CNSC and QMP.

In July, SRC held a pancake breakfast and onsite open house at Gunnar for the residents of Uranium City and Camsell Portage. We offered an opportunity for those that grew up on site at Gunnar and still live in the area to visit the site as it stands now. During the open house, we heard stories of the attendees playing on site as children, being born in the hospital and attending school at Gunnar.

Additionally, SRC hosted a one-day, onsite leadership tour of Gunnar for the Prince Albert Grand Council at Gunnar. Grand Chief Hardlott, Vice Chief Tsannie, Stony Rapids Mayor Daniel Powder, Black Lake Councillor Eddie Boneleye and George Bihun from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment all attended the tour.



Guests on SRC’s leadership Tour



SRC presenting in Black Lake, June 2024



Corey Burgess (SRC), Chief Coreen Sayazie, and Skye Muirhead (SRC) in Black Lake for community meetings



Guests on SRC’s leadership Tour

Meet Our Team



Trevor is an Environmental Specialist on SRC’s Project CLEANS team and has a Bachelor of Science in Renewable Resource Management from the University of Saskatchewan. He works on all three of the major projects included within the scope of the project – Gunnar Mine, Lorado Mill and the Satellite Sites.

Trevor primarily manages and tracks all hazardous materials and waste generated from the project and ensures that project activities meet environmental regulations. He is also involved with all types of field work, around Uranium City and Gunnar Mine, which includes site monitoring, environmental sampling programs and site representative duties. This often involves hiking, boating, flying and riding all-terrain vehicles to remote locations around the Athabasca region.

Trevor enjoys the outdoors and is frequently out hiking, canoeing, kayaking, fishing and hunting. He enjoys playing all types of sports - he is part of a slow-pitch team and is an avid golfer. During the winter months, he spends his time watching hockey and enjoying video games. Trevor is a life-long resident of Saskatoon.

