Gunnar & Lorado TEK Mapping Project: EIS

Uranium City, SK
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Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process

- In July 2007 and April 2009 SRC was informed that the rehabilitation project for the Gunnar Mine Site and Lorado Mill would require an EIA and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- In March 2008, the *"Draft Project-Specific Guidelines and Comprehensive Study Scoping Document, Environmental Impact Assessment of the Former Gunnar Mine Site Rehabilitation Project"* (Gunnar Guideline-Scoping Document) was produced by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) and SE
- In November 2009 the "Draft Project-Specific Guidelines and Scoping Document, Environmental Impact Assessment of T\the Former Lorado Uranium Mill Site Rehabilitation Project" (Lorado Guidelines-Scoping document) was produced This document has just completed the public review and comment process (January 2009).
- These documents are meant to assist the proponent with the conduct of the EIA and the preparation of the EIS. "The document reflects the concerns and issues that have been raised by provincial and federal officials regarding the proposed project and identifies the information that should be included in the EIS."

Aboriginal Inclusion in the EIA and EIS

- Section 16.1 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, gives responsible authorities conducting an EIA the discretion to consider Aboriginal traditional knowledge in any EIA:

  "Community knowledge and Aboriginal traditional knowledge may be considered in conducting an environmental assessment.“

- Recognizing that the Aboriginal people who live in the area that will be affected by the proposed project, with their long history of living in close proximity to the land and resources that surround them, can significantly contribute to the overall understanding of the impact the project may have, and can help improve a project’s design.

CEAA: Traditional/Local Knowledge Contribution to an EIA and EIS are outlined

- provide relevant biophysical information, including historical information, that may otherwise have been unavailable;
- help identify potential environmental effects;
- lead to improved project design;
- strengthen mitigation measures;
- contribute to the building of enhanced long-term relationships between proponents, Aboriginal groups, and/or responsible authorities;
- lead to better decisions; and
- contribute to the building of EA and traditional knowledge capacity within Aboriginal communities and build an awareness of, and appreciation for, traditional knowledge in non-Aboriginal communities.

Guideline-Scoping Documents Acknowledge Affects To Athabasca Aboriginal People

- the identification of valued ecosystem components (VECs);
- the identification of renewable resources likely to be affected;
- the historic and current use and occupancy of the area and its resources by Aboriginal people, including cultural sites and activities, subsistence activities, and the consumption of country foods;
- proposed future land and resource use;
- the identification of potential side effects of the rehabilitation activities on the environment, VECs, traditional land use and health of the people and resources used for traditional purposes; and
- the contribution of Aboriginal knowledge to the development of the rehabilitation plan.

Athabasca Region

Gunnar Mine and Lorado Mill Site Rehabilitation Projects - UOM

Scale 1: 25,000 - NTS sheets number 074N06 / 074N07 / 074N08 / 074N09 / 074N10 / 074N11
Map Projection: Canada Lambert Conformal Conic

Athabasc

Name :
PIN # :
Signature :
Date :
Interviewer(s) :
Translator :
Overlay # : of

Legend

- Runway
- Industrial Solid Depot
- Pit
- Mine
- Wetland
- Forest

TEK Mapping Project : Purpose

The purpose of the proposed project is to document the traditional knowledge and vision of the Athabasca Denesuline, Métis and local non-Aboriginal residents, as it relates to the Gunnar mine site and Lorado mill site and their rehabilitation, for incorporation into the EIA and EIS; and to guide the final development of the rehabilitation plans, to ensure the visions and current use of the area by Aboriginal, Métis and local non-Aboriginal residents informs as many aspects of the EIA and rehabilitation plans as is appropriate.

TEK Mapping Project: Goal:

- Meaningful contributions of the Athabasca Denesuline, Métis and local non-Aboriginal residents to the proposed rehabilitation project;
- Improve the quality and holistic nature of the information that contributes to the EIA and EIS;
- To gain a better understanding of the potential and desired environmental and social impacts of the proposed rehabilitation;
- Improve the rehabilitation plan to better address the issues, concerns and visions of the local population who will be immediately affected;
- To ensure the safety of the Aboriginal, Métis and local residents and the environment.

TEK Mapping Project: Objectives

- To document the Athabasca Denesuline, Métis and local resident land use and occupancy and traditional knowledge for the areas of interest/study areas and proposed rehabilitation plans, relates to the environment, renewable and non-renewable resources, historic, current and future land use and occupancy, critical habitat areas, cultural aspects and the noted VECs and potential impacts of the rehabilitation plans;
- To incorporate the Aboriginal and traditional/local ecological knowledge and current, historic and future land use and occupancy information of the Athabasca Denesuline, Métis and local non-Aboriginal residents into the EIA, EIS and into the development of implementation of the rehabilitation plans.
- To explore and document the social, economic and cultural vision of the Athabasca Denesuline, Métis and local non-Aboriginal residents for the future of the Gunner and Lorado sites;
- To explore and document ways in which the rehabilitation of the Gunnar mine and Lorado mill sites can contribute to the overall cultural, economic and social development of the Athabasca Denesuline, Metis and local people in the impact communities;

Importance to local residents

Project Description

- PAGC lead and manage the documentation of the knowledge of the Athabasca Denesuline, Metis and local non-Aboriginal residents
- Documenting the current, historic and future use and occupancy of the land and resources
- Documenting knowledge of the ecosystem, its cycle and the VECs
- Identification of potential side effects of the rehabilitation activities on the environment
- Traditional land use

Project Description

- The appropriateness of the rehabilitation plans for the environment
- The appropriateness of the rehabilitation for the future of the Athabasca residents in the impacted areas
- Identify major issues of concerns
- Ways in which the rehabilitation may also assist in the social and economic development
- Secure future of the Athabasca residents, among others
- Local input from the communities as a guide

TEK Methods:

- One-on-one interviews (approximately 30 interviews)
- The interviews will employ participatory mapping and open-ended-question interview methods to document the information
- As a result data will take the form of spatial and qualitative information
- Spatial data will be digitized for use in a geographic information system (GIS)
- The development of the interview, the implementation of the interview process and the processing and analysis of results will be conducted by trained TEK Interviewers and PAGC

What's been done?

- Reviewed background information related to Gunnar/Lorado Mine & Mill Sites
- Reviewed land use information held by PAGC
- Community meetings to draft and finalized TEK Mapping Methodology

- Signed Confidentiality Agreements between Parties
- Hired and trained researchers and transcriptionists
- Completed one on one interviews
- 90% of taped interviews completed and summarized
- Scanned plastic overlays and digitizing in process
- Ongoing quality control of the data
- Drafting TEK research report

Next Steps

- Finish digitizing map overlays
- Finish transcribing the remainder TEK taped interviews
- Additional follow-up work on TEK
- Analyze the TEK taped interviews to form the report along with individual map biographies
- Draft a TEK report for community verification and approval
- Submit final report to SRC and AECOM to incorporate in the EIS
- Review and finalize contributions to the EIA and EIS