

Project CLEANs
Summary of Public Meeting
Uranium City, SK, October 7, 2009

PRESENT:

Guests:

Max Morin	Métis Nation – Saskatchewan
Al Rivard	Métis Nation – Saskatchewan – North Region
Allen Augier	UCS / Métis Nation – LAC Local
Gerald Felix McDonald	Fond du Lac, SK EQC
Margaret Powder	Uranium City Resident
Curtis Fiss	Stony Rapids, EQC
Warren Kelly	HMMS, La Ronge
Dean Classen	Chair, Uranium City Council
Kuni Albert	Albert and Associates Ltd.
Mervin McDonald	Stony Rapids, EQC
Marty Robillard	Black Lake Band Councillor
Russell Powder	Uranium City Resident
Alexandra Adams	Uranium City Resident
Diane McDonald	ARG – PAGC
Albert Mercredi	AWG
Marlene Powder	Uranium City Resident
Tina Giroux	PAGC
Gene Ouellette	ANA
Jim Pfaffenroth	Uranium City Resident
Wayne Augier	Uranium City Resident

AECOM:

Glenda Fratton

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission:

Tom Gates
Sarah Eaton

Saskatchewan Energy and Resources:

Keith Cunningham

Ministry of Environment:

George Bihun
Alison Tucker
Dale Kristoff

Cameco:

Mike Webster	Cameco – Remediation Coordinator
Brady Balicki	Cameco
Jim Andrews	Cameco – Northern Affairs
Freddie Throassie	Cameco/AREVA/Black Lake

SRC

Alexy Klyashtorin
Mark Simpson
Aaron MacDonell
Kirby Huff

<<Meeting began at 1300hrs in the gymnasium at the Ben McIntyre School.>>

Cameco Presentation - Beaverlodge

- Welcome by Mike Webster, Reclamation Coordinator – Cameco.
- Introductions (all individuals present identified themselves and their association with the project).
- *History and Background of Area* – acceptable environmental practices in the past would not be acceptable in today's society, tailings (untreated) were fed into Beaverlodge Lake; as a result there are legacy impacts in this area. Recovery and monitoring began in 1985. Cameco became involved in 1988 and took over the Beaverlodge/Eldorado properties (funded by Canada Eldor).
- *Beaverlodge Lake* – has been impacted by both Eldorado and non-Eldorado properties. The focus is on the licensed former Eldorado properties to determine any practical/reasonable remedial options that can be taken.
- *Re-licensing* – in February 2009 Cameco had a re-licensing hearing in Ottawa and requested a 3-year licence for remediation purposes. Cameco received an 8-month licence extension to develop a remedial action plan, which is to be presented to the Commission in November 2009. Also at the February meeting, CNSC exempted 5 of the satellite properties.
- *Institutional Control Framework* – was set up as final phase of a mining/milling operation to ensure no mining property is 'forgotten', (mine/mill development, mine closure, reclamation, monitor reclamation, IC Program – long term monitoring program funded by company at time of transfer).
- *Institutional Control Program* – Cameco would like to see a path forward with all of its properties to this program. Cameco will do what can be reasonably done to the sites and will transfer when the properties are stable and behaving as predicted. The long term monitoring will be done by the province of Saskatchewan following transfer of property.
- *Remedial Options Workshop* – held June 17th and 18th to assess potential remedial options for the various Eldorado properties. Six representatives from Uranium City attended, as well as four

EQC members, three from MNS, and others from CNSC, SME, EC, Cameco, and consultants. The workshop was facilitated by SRK consultants.

- *Workshop Goals* – list of potential options were evaluated to determine those worthy of further consideration and points of information gaps (i.e. site conditions, contaminate sources, pathways, wildlife conditions, and so forth).
- *Workshop Follow-up* – filling of information gaps and the list of studies determined will be reviewed to ensure they are adequate and leading towards the goals in mind. Currently going through a justification stage to ensure the studies will serve their purpose and assessed those that can be completed without significant cost or effort.
- *Activities to Support Action Plan* – include borehole plugging (performed by Golder Associates and UCC), conceptual site model development, Ace Creek study, and LiDAR survey.
- *Borehole Plugging* – 6 flowing boreholes were plugged. In May of 2009 temporary plugs were installed and monitored with final monitoring completed in September 2009.
- *Conceptual Site Model* – designed to tell a story through pictures supported by data, maps and visual concepts to identify potential contaminants, source locations and pathways. The initial version was issued in September 2009 – this conceptual site model is a living breathing document and as new information is gathered the model will be updated to reflect that new information.
- ***Request by Allen Augier – requested to be onsite when companies are performing actions in the area (i.e. Dye process performed in the Hab Mine area by Golder on behalf of Cameco)***
- ***Question by Diane McDonald– Is there a fish habitat in Pistol Lake? Cameco: There are potential fish habitats in this area and the Saskatchewan Government has issued a fish consumption advisory. This is also the case for Beaverlodge Lake.***
- ***Question by Tina Giroux – Has a waterfowl study been done? Cameco: A bird study is proposed in the next 3 years for this project.***
- *Ace Creek* – noted increase in uranium concentration between Ace and Beaverlodge Lakes. To help find the area that may contain this source, eight samples were taken along Ace Creek. The source area was identified as a former mill location.
- ***Question by Felix McDonald - When was the increase identified? Cameco: It's been known for quite some time. We are trying to determine that the cause is, not only the source.***
- *2009 LiDAR Survey* – airborne survey that provides a 'bare earth' image, provides 10cm accuracy. The LiDAR Survey has a wide range of uses including to quickly assess some of the potential remedial options to see if they are possible such as stream diversion around areas of possible contamination, calculation of how much a process may cost, and movement of waste rock piles (effort required can be determined).
- *Other Studies* – include Ace Bay contamination study (tailings washed into Ace Bay, determining the extent of contamination from spilt tailings); uranium, radium and polonium bioavailability – how these elements become available into the ecosystem; Hab Mine – hydrological assessment (i.e. dye process from previous question/slide) to determine water flow, rate, and potential contamination.

- *Question by Wayne Augier – Is Fookes Lake going to be remediated? Cameco: This is one that was discussed at the remedial workshop and is being looked at/options are being determined. Mr. Webster noted radium levels have increased while other contamination levels have reduced.*
- *Question by Warren Kelly – What is allotted for Beaverlodge? Cameco: Federal government and public funds are responsible for actions taken at the Beaverlodge site and the value has to be relatable to the cost and the expected benefit. There isn't a limitless supply of funding but there also isn't a known set limit of funding for the project.*
- *Question by Diane McDonald – What is tested in the Water Quality testing? Cameco: We test for radium, uranium, nutrients, major ions, and metals (not mercury).*
- *Question by Wayne Augier– Why is there not a monitoring station at the discharge point at Lake Athabasca/Crackingstone Bay? Cameco: We did do a study along Crackingstone with SRC and got water quality and fish studies all along that river. The concern in the Crackingstone River was not high as the results were within the water quality surface water levels. The data did lead to the fish consumption advisory in this area. There may be opportunities for studies such as this where we have groups set up to monitor the area, as there is more than just the Beaverlodge site. Wayne noted scabs and sores on pike and trout caught in that river (Crackingstone Bay). Allan adds/clarifies that Wayne would like to see a permanent monitoring station added to that area. Mike responded that this is not part of the licenced area at this time but is a future opportunity.*
- *Question by Russell Powder – What happens if Cameco/SRC/etc pull out/go under? Cameco: This (Beaverlodge) is all funded by the federal government, so the work would continue regardless.*
- *Request to see results/testing/sampling by Allen and others present, requested total transparency with all actions being taken. Request by Marlene Powder for copies of the reports to be made available to the residents for review. Mike will leave his e-mail in the event that copies are not available in the town office. Tom Gates also will leave contact information to ensure reports are made available.*
- *2009 Activities – warning signs have been put in place identifying the risks associated with the sites (i.e. falling rock, unstable conditions near waste rock piles, etc.). The signage also identifies Cameco Corporation as managing the site. Signs are put at the boundaries of all the sites to ensure risks are known. **Approved by the residents present.***
- *JRG Meeting – CNSC, MOE, DFO, Canada Eldor, Cameco were all present for the meeting in September 2009. Involved the development of a decision-making framework/discussion of path forward for Beaverlodge properties.*
- *Monitoring Recovery Objectives – site – specific objectives, based on expected benefit and implementation of those objectives. The objective becomes to achieve those results.*
- *Path Forward for Licence Period – list of studies to complete, fill information gaps, and justify studies.*
- *Management Framework Flowchart – created at the JRG meeting. Copies were made available to meeting participants. The ultimate goal is acceptance into Institutional Control program.*

- *Framework Questions/Decision Points:* Is the information we have sufficient to proceed with the remedial options → assess current risk → are the risks acceptable (aquatic environment, humans, etc) → benefit costs and decision making (is it worth doing?) → did we achieve the expected benefit? Note that there are lots of opportunities for input from stakeholders (i.e. all participants/organizations in this meeting)
- *Upcoming Licence Hearing* – November 5 in Saskatoon, located in Saskatoon at the Travelodge, live broadcast on the internet @ www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/
- **End of presentation 1415**

SRC Presentation – 1430

- **Gunnar Mine Site Environmental Assessment Progress**
- *Presented by Aaron MacDonell* – focus is on Gunnar Mine Site. CLEANs does involved Lorado and 36 smaller mine sites; however, Gunnar will be the focus for this presentation.
- *Project Review* – project is funded by provincial and federal government. SRC acts as project manager for the government of Canada and SRC does report to a minister.
- *Advancing Strategic sectors slide* –SRC is not a profit driven organization.
- *Components of Gunnar Mine* –Environmental Assessment work is to determine how to best rehabilitate the site while minimizing the risk to health and environment. The project does have a limited amount of funds, so SRC is looking at net impact: how can we best change the situation at the mine site with the funds/resources available? As the components are existing, options can be developed around them.
- *Buildings and Infrastructure* – 85 000 m³ of buildings and infrastructure, may contain asbestos as they are of older construction.
- *The Pit* – now a lake because at closure, a channel was blasted to the nearest water body and allowed to fill the pit. The geotechnical conditions are stable but as the pit is holding water, the concern increases as the lower water is toxic (water quality decreases towards the bottom of the pit). There has been seepage noted from the pit to Lake Athabasca. Fishery and water quality studies are being performed as part of the Environmental Assessment process and treatment options will be determined following this process.
- *Waste Rock* – 2.7 million m³ of waste rock on the shores. This is not an accepted process, the slope is not at an acceptable grade and the pile contains metal refuse as well (barrels, etc). The pile is not stable. Impact on the creek has to be considered, especially since uranium seepage from the waste rock pile has been found.
- *Tailings* – the worst component of the site is the tailings. The practice of the day was to put the pipe over the hill and “let it go”, there are 4.4 million tonnes of tailings discharged over the land at Gunnar (14 m deep in one area, 2-4m in another). Looking at how far away from major water bodies the tailings are, using groundwater monitoring wells to determine contamination transport and what contamination is moving/present, gives a better idea how it can be stopped or remediated. Other activities taking place regarding the tailings include determining native species of vegetation for final reclamation stages, tissue analysis is being performed on some animals species, as well as aquatic studies (i.e. fish), sediment studies, and insect studies.

- *Gamma* – an extensive gamma survey of the site was performed this summer. The maximum from waste rock was 11.6mS/h, other averages at other sites were 2.5 mS/h maximum. The majority of the site appears to need to be covered. Measuring and weighing the risks involved with determining how to cover the area. Signs have been placed in the area. Radon tracking is being performed.
- *Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use – Kuni Albert* – aids in determining the approach to be taken by SRC to ensure it is in line with the desires and needs of the community.
- *Kuni* – provided her background (grew up in area, Fond Du Lac First Nations Member), owns consulting firm Albert and Associates. Stated that traditional knowledge is the intergenerational transfer of knowledge from grandparents to parents to children and so forth, and traditional land use is the study of land and how it was used (i.e. harvested in one area or another). She is hoping to get more feedback from the communities in this region (as it aids in mapping of different locations, landmarks, etc. in the Gunnar mine site area). Resident input into this strategy is vital in the remediation process in returning the area to one that can be used in the traditional way, “We were born there and raised there and we understand the area,” Stanly Sam Nuu-Chan Elder, Ahousaht, BC. There will be discussions on how to involve the community.
- ***Question from Al Rivard regarding use of Aboriginal/First Nation knowledge in the presentation and wondering if it was going to be defined in the land use study – Kuni: it is all inclusive (the land study) and within this region there are those who are not Aboriginal/First Nation/Métis but still have that traditional land use knowledge and they will also be included.***
- ***Question by Diane McDonald - What method is going to be used to develop the study?– Kuni: We desire input from the community in how they want the study done, if they want to be involved, and so forth.***
- ***Question by Diane McDonald - Why hasn't SRC contacted PA Grand Council about the occupancy study they performed in the area? Kuni/Aaron: They will be involved in this process and will be used as a source of information.*** Diane stated a methodology was used by PAGC in their study, noted information cannot be released with expressed permission.
- ***Question regarding a dollar value being placed on natural use resources in the area, and the impact on them...Kuni replied that there is a methodology (not peer reviewed) that may be used to show the impact in this area.***
- ***Request was made that it not be a value given arbitrarily; Kuni replied that it will be community specific and based on their responses. Aaron added that we are strictly looking at socio-economic impacts for this project. Kuni will also look at the impact of humans in the area in the past compared to the present. Joe Muldoon stated that as the site is remediated, if there are impacts as a result of that remediation, we will have to deal with that as part of the project. The legacy impacts are not as much of the focus in that regard. We want to make sure that we make the right decisions about bringing that site back to a point that is better than it has been in the past. Aaron MacDonell added that we are looking at what we can do to make the site better as a net impact, not a net dollar value. Joe Muldoon: We are not going in saying this (the funding) is all we have. If we reach a point where we reach a limit we will have to go back and see what can be done (i.e. getting additional resources, etc). Kuni Albert:***

We want to involve those impacted by the Gunnar mine site so that we can determine what the traditional land use was prior to the Gunnar mine site and try to get it back to that point through this process. Involvement of individuals will be community directed, not selected solely by us.

- *Question by Allen Augier – What about outside Saskatchewan, are you going to go outside Saskatchewan to speak with individuals? Aaron MacDonell: We are looking at doing this.*
- *Question by Allen Augier – Can the reforestation/vegetation process be sped up? Aaron MacDonell: We’re looking at it, if we can do it, we will. It’s a top soil problem, top soil in this area is rare. It doesn’t make sense for us to destroy vegetation in one area for the sake of another.*
- *Question by Allen Augier – How long will this take? Aaron MacDonell: The regulatory process itself will draw out until 2012-2013, we are hoping the physical work will begin by 2012-2014, the assessment process should be done by 2012.*
- *Question by Allen Augier - What is the procedure for storing or burying that much asbestos? Aaron MacDonell: We’re looking at options for dealing with the asbestos, we will be following the same safe work processes as other companies. Joe Muldoon: Asbestos itself is very innate, the biggest issue is to the workers themselves when it is being brought down and broken apart. The asbestos won’t be found in the water systems or transferring to the soil.*
- *Question by Wayne Augier– When is the PRC going to reform? – Aaron MacDonell: waiting to hear about the newly formed representation and going to meet to determine how effective the PRC is and ensure that the group is effective when the new members are determined.*
- *Question by Warren Kelly - Is there any commitment from the federal government? – Aaron MacDonell: They are funding half of Gunnar.*
- *Question by Russell Powder – How much has been spent so far? – Aaron MacDonell: Currently 24 million is allocated for Gunnar, amount spent so far is unknown at the moment but is approximately 3 million to-date.*
- *Question by Allen Augier – In regard to employment opportunities, contract management, what is being done to maximize participation of residents/members of the Athabasca basin and how are they managed? Aaron MacDonell: for the short-term casual employees, AECOM hired as few this season; they were hired through AECOM to help with the field studies. With the bigger contracts, we go through an RFP process and part of the evaluation is to ensure that locals are used. We are also looking at enhancing our aboriginal procurement enhancement strategy. We do have a strategy in place and are looking at it as a whole.*
- *Question by Diane McDonald - Who holds the lease? Keith Cunningham: Right now it is a mixed permit. Eventually there will be leases for the sites, the smaller satellites sites are cleaned up with a miscellaneous use permit. Aaron MacDonell: SRC has actually done some revisions to allow for more mobility for locals to bid on the contracts and to promote the inclusion of local aboriginals with their sub-contracts.*
- *Question - How is that monitored? Aaron MacDonell: We are looking at that to determine if it was effective and it will be part of the discussions with the PRC when we get that going.*

- ***Question – What happens with the leases? Aaron MacDonell: There are surface leases for all the Beaverlodge properties and will be released back into the province’s registry on behalf of Canada Eldor. With Gunnar, SRC will be holding the lease on behalf of Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment and Saskatchewan Energy and Resources; Gunnar Industries held it previously but abandoned the site fully.***
- ***Question by Diane McDonald - Are there PCBs present? Aaron MacDonell n: There are bound to be some due to previous power generation and other activities.***

<<Meeting concluded at 1320.>>