



# Faro Mine Closure UPDATE

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Selkirk First Nation members participate in a closure options assessment meeting.

## Recommending a Closure Plan for the Faro Mine Complex

A closure plan for the Faro Mine Complex has been recommended by the Faro Mine Oversight Committee, made up of senior level representatives from the Government of Canada, Government of Yukon, Selkirk First Nation and Ross River Dena Council. Reaching consensus on a recommended closure plan has involved over five years of planning, technical studies, community consultations, expert review and cost analysis. It has also depended on governments working together with affected Yukon First Nations to address issues, discuss alternatives and agree on an option that addresses protection of the environment and human health and safety, while balancing economic costs and benefits.

After an assessment of remaining mineral reserves in 2003, governments agreed that the Faro Mine Complex would not reopen and that a permanent long-term closure plan would be needed. The Oversight Committee was established during this time to provide senior level

strategic direction on the overall closure planning process.

Over the last five years, more than 100 technical studies and assessments have been carried out in order to characterize the potential environmental issues at the mine site. In addition, a large number of technical workshops with consultants, different levels of government, communities and regulatory agencies have taken place in order to gather input on different approaches to closure.

In 2005, results of the technical studies and workshops were summarized in a series of 12 sample closure alternatives; these represented the spectrum of what was technically feasible to address the environmental issues present at the site.

The sample alternatives were subject to an Independent Peer Review Panel in 2006. The review also included an extensive period of feedback and discussion on specific issues and topics with governments and stakeholders.

*Closure Plan continued on next page*

Meetings in Ross River, Pelly Crossing, Watson Lake, Faro and Whitehorse are being planned for February 2009 to present the recommended closure plan and begin gathering input for the environmental and socio-economic assessment phase. Please check the website or call the Faro Project office for more details.

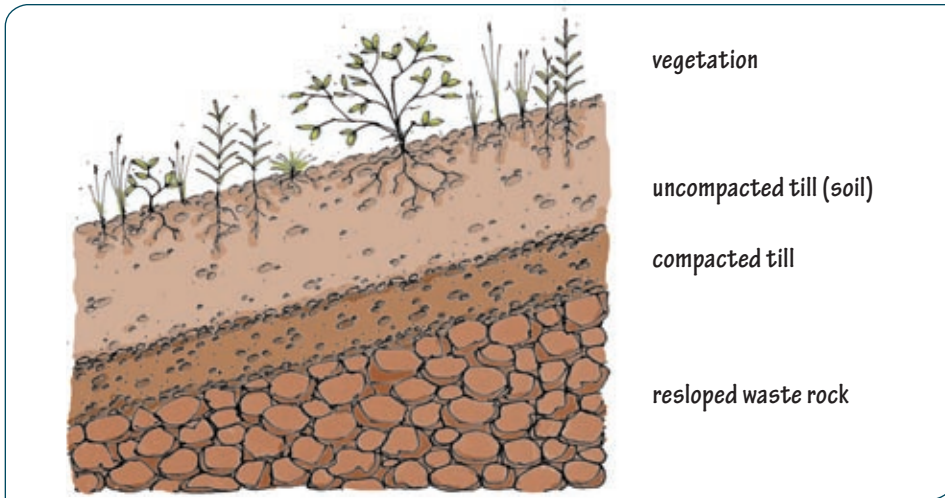
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### Closure Plan continued

Based upon the recommendations of the Peer Review Panel, and the outputs of community/government consultation, it was possible to refine the 12 sample alternatives into five final closure options.

Community members, technical consultants and governments spent over a year evaluating the short list

of five options against the project objectives, to determine the merits of each option. As a result of this evaluation, the federal, territorial and First Nations governments (Ross River Dena Council, Selkirk First Nation and Liard First Nation) were able to reach consensus on a preferred closure option and recommend a closure plan for the Faro Mine Complex.



An illustrated example of what an engineered soil cover would look like.

## Stabilization is Key to the Closure Plan

The recommended closure plan involves a stabilize-in-place approach. Just like it sounds, this approach will include the following measures:

- Upgrading of dams to ensure tailings stay in place during natural events such as earthquakes and floods;
- Re-sloping of waste rock to improve long-term stability;
- Installation of engineered soil covers over approximately 320 million tonnes of tailings and waste rock;
- Installation of state-of-the-art collection and treatment systems for contaminated water; and,
- Upgrading stream diversions.

Engineered soil covers are made of natural materials (soils and gravels)

and are designed to minimize the infiltration of rain and melt water into tailings and waste rock. This reduces the rate at which contaminants are created and transported into the aquatic environment where they can be harmful to fish and other aquatic organisms. Soil covers also prevent humans and wildlife from contacting contaminated materials, and also stop movement of these materials by wind and water. An uncompacted top “growing layer” of soil allows for re-vegetation of the covers, both to help the covers work better and to improve habitat for birds and animals. Before being covered, tailings and waste rock will be reshaped to look more like the natural environment.

## Thank You!

The Faro Project Management Team would like to thank the members of Ross River Dena Council, Selkirk First Nation, Liard First Nation and the Town of Faro for their participation, hard work and overall commitment to the closure planning process.

## THE ROAD AHEAD

Implementation of the closure plan will begin once the regulatory and environmental and socio-economic assessments are complete and the project receives final approval. This process could take between two and three years.

Once the project is approved and permits are authorized by regulators, the major construction phase is expected to take about 15 years to complete. Ensuring jobs and business opportunities for affected Yukon First Nations and Yukoners is one of the key objectives of this project. The construction phase will be followed by an adaptation phase of approximately 20-25 years in which all of the various on-site elements including soil covers, structures, collection and treatment systems will be tested, monitored and improved as required.

The experts agree that the work at the Faro Mine Complex will take place over the long-term. Monitoring and maintenance of engineered soil covers and structures, as well as collection and treatment of contaminated water, will continue for a very long time, providing jobs for Yukoners as active stewards of the land for generations to come.



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