



Faro Mine Closure

UPDATE

July 2009

Issue #11



Community members provide input at a meeting in Ross River.

Update on the Project Execution Plan

In late May and early June, the Project Team visited each of the affected communities to provide an update on project activities, present new information and receive feedback on elements of the project proposal. The most important piece of new information presented was the first draft of the project execution plan.

The project execution plan includes a summary of the proposed construction schedule for the project. The schedule details when all of the various elements of the plan – covering waste rock and tailings, improving dams and diversions, installing new groundwater capture and treatment systems, etc – will happen within the approximately 14-year major construction period. The schedule also highlights where certain elements are dependant on others, such as the decommissioning of the haul road which occurs after its role in the transport of materials for other major works is complete.

Another important piece of new information presented at the meetings was the preliminary breakdown of jobs required for the 14-year construction phase – such as numbers, types and how the workforce will be phased in. Peak employment will be approximately

115 person-years (the equivalent of one person working for one-year), with some year-round and some seasonal work. The majority of full-time positions will be heavy equipment operators, light equipment operators and labourers, with a smaller number of other jobs such as supervisors, engineers, surveyors, administrative staff, treatment plant operators, environmental technicians, etc. The project partners – Canada, Yukon and the three affected Yukon First Nations – are currently engaged in discussions about how to best approach issues which cross governmental and departmental lines, such as training and education, to help ensure that the project objective of maximizing benefits to Yukoners and affected Yukon First Nations can be met in a timely and effective manner.

The next round of community meetings will take place in the fall, beginning in late September. At that time, the project team will provide updates on the results of the environmental and socio-economic assessments prior to submission of the project proposal to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB). Watch the newsletter or contact your community coordinator for details of dates and times in your community.

The Faro Mine Closure Project office has moved. Please drop us a line or come visit us in our new office space located above the Royal Bank at:

Suite 2C-4114-4th Ave,
PO Box 2703 (K-419)
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Staff telephone numbers and emails will remain the same.

WWW.FAROMINE.CA



Meeting participants gather for the first Working Group meeting in Whitehorse.

Summary of First Environmental Assessment/Socio-Economic Assessment Working Group Meeting

On May 26, 2009, the first Environmental Assessment/Socio-Economic Assessment (EA/SEA) Working Group meeting for the Faro Mine Closure and Remediation project was held in Whitehorse. The purpose of the Working Group meetings are to bring together identified representatives from each of the affected communities and First Nations – Faro, Ross River Dena Council, Selkirk First Nation and Liard First Nation – to provide feedback on the draft project proposal and bring forward key issues or concerns in relation to environmental and/or socio-economic aspects of the project.

Working Group meetings will be held throughout the summer and fall to ensure opportunities for community feedback and input in advance of the final project proposal being submitted to the YESAB for review later in the fall. Having community representatives identify and discuss their key concerns will assist the Faro Team in creating a plan that considers the needs of all affected communities.

Community representatives ranging in age from youth to elders attended the meeting in Whitehorse and spent the day receiving an update on the status of the project and providing feedback and input about the project construction schedule and proposed timelines for work to begin at the site.

A number of questions and issues were brought forward at the meeting. Some of the key items of discussion were focused on jobs and training opportunities for affected community members, project schedule timelines, incorporating First Nations Traditional Knowledge into the plan, and what kinds of impacts the overall project will have on people, communities and the environment.

A list of questions and answers from the first Working Group meeting will be made available to participants at the next Working Group meeting in August.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Town of Faro 40 Years Young

The Faro Project Management Team would like to congratulate the Town of Faro for a successful 40 year anniversary. In true Faro form, the Town put on a wonderful week of activities for both visitors and locals alike. One of the highlights of the week were the tours of the Faro Mine Complex, which were very popular with over 150 people attending between July 2nd and 5th. Tour participants ranged from local Faroites to people who used to work at the mine, to interested tourists from various parts of the world.



Stephen Mead - Director of Assessment and Abandoned Mines for Yukon Government kicks off the first tour of the mine site on July 2nd.

What's Happening at the Faro Mine Complex?



As part of ongoing care and maintenance at the Faro Mine Complex, the scrap steel cutting program has started up once again for the summer. Five staff from Ross River are participating in this program for 16 weeks from June 1st until the middle of September. This program has been going on at the site for a couple of years and involves primarily on-site steel cutting of old

machinery in order to effectively get rid of equipment that is no longer being used.

This year, spring conditions at the site were relatively mild, despite the considerable amount of snowfall accumulated over the winter. Denison Environmental Services (DES) was successfully able to deal with spring water management at the site. Water treatment on the Faro side is progressing as anticipated, with the Vangorda water treatment system starting near the end of June.

DES is working on a number of projects at the site to increase the efficiency of care and maintenance activities. The implementation of these efficiencies will enhance and facilitate water management strategies in the event of a heavy rainfall and for annual freshet events. One such project is an electrical assessment to identify locations

for additional power sources, improve electrical efficiency, and incorporate electrical usage requirements for closure activities. Other activities include installation of a new analytical laboratory, upgrading the communications system, tailings dust control and road improvements.

New Analytical Laboratory at the Faro Mine Complex

Denison Environmental Services is in the process of installing a new stand-alone Analytical Laboratory to improve its ability to do the assessment and monitoring required as part of their care and maintenance duties. The new lab facility is equipped to provide state-of-the-art analysis of water, soil, air and biological samples, right on the site.



The new analytical lab on site at the Faro Mine Complex.

This will enable cost-effective and professional monitoring at the Faro Mine Complex through the current care and maintenance phase and into the next phase, the final closure and remediation of the site.



Pipe installation at the Intermediate Pond Barge

It is anticipated that the new lab will become operational by the end of the summer. The facility will become an important addition to the many ongoing monitoring programs at the site, and will provide training and career development opportunities for Yukoners for years to come.

Having such a facility in the Yukon is an exciting opportunity that is sure to have benefits beyond the Faro Mine closure project itself. For example, Yukon College has expressed an interest in using the new lab in its Northern Research Training and Water Treatment Certification programs. The project partners are currently exploring ways to identify and maximize all the opportunities that this new facility presents.

Comings and Goings'

The Faro Project is pleased to welcome Terry Szabo to the Team. Terry has recently been hired by Liard First Nation as the Community Coordinator for the Faro Mine Closure Project in Watson Lake. Terry was born and raised in Watson Lake and has been attending school in Northern BC for several years, majoring in Arts and Social Sciences.



Terry Szabo, Community Coordinator with Liard First Nation

Before being hired on as the community coordinator for the Faro Project, Terry worked for the territorial and federal governments in Tourism and Finance. She has also been employed by Liard First Nation as the Director of Restorative Justice and an Occupational First Aid Attendant. Terry has been a foster parent, president of the Watson Lake daycare and is the mother of two beautiful girls. Welcome to the Team Terry!

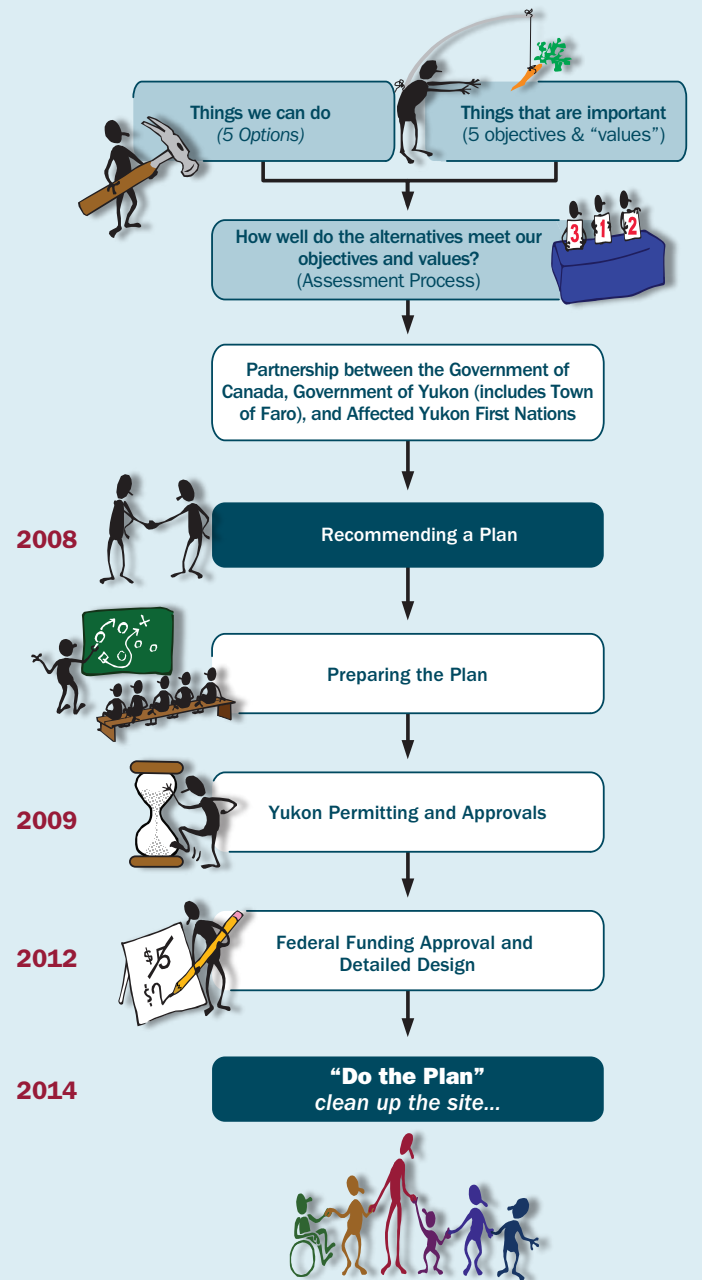
Daniel Steiner has accepted a job in BC and will be leaving his position as Community Development and Grants Coordinator with the Town Of Faro. Rose Price will be taking over the position of Community Liaison starting in early August for the Town of Faro

Also, Erin Macpherson, our communications officer and coordinator of the Faro Update newsletter will be heading off on maternity leave in mid-July. Best wishes and good luck to all those coming and going.

We'd Like to Hear from You!

If you'd like to submit a story idea or have any suggestions for upcoming issues, please let us know by emailing info@faromine.ca

Road Map to Remediation



INFO@FAROMINE.CA

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Whitehorse, Yukon**

Y1A 2C6

867.393.7098 (NEW!)

Watson Lake:
867.536.2392

Pelly Crossing:
867.537.3144

Ross River:
867.969.2103

Town of Faro:
867.994.2728



Yukon
Government

Canada