



Community members view the Faro Mine complex in 2006.

Getting Your Input

The six closure options presented in the previous table will form the basis of an upcoming evaluation process. Simply put, this process aims to find out how well each option meets the five overall closure objectives. The evaluation process is intended to identify the most appropriate approach to take for long-term closure and remediation of the Faro Mine complex.

Public consultation is the next step. In order to make this evaluation process work, it will be extremely important to understand the views of each of the key communities: Ross River, Pelly Crossing and the Town of Faro. The closure team will be working very closely with each community to gather meaningful input on how well each alternative meets the objectives, and the importance of each objective.

To start this process off, the closure team has arranged a series of “kick-off” meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to explain what has happened since the spring of 2006 and how a final closure and remediation plan will be selected. The “new” set of six closure options will be presented, along with the brand new 3D models of the Faro mine complex.

Public Consultation: A Phased Approach

The next stage of consultation, with more detailed information on costs and environmental performance for each of the six options, will begin later this year. Watch for meetings to be scheduled in Ross River, Faro, Pelly Crossing and Whitehorse, starting in the spring.



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Yukon
Government



Canada



Kick Off Meetings

Ross River
Friday March 16th
10 a.m. (see Kathlene
Suza for details)

Pelly Crossing
Monday March 26th
9:30 a.m. (see Ellie
Marcotte for details)

Town of Faro
Thursday March 15th
7:15 p.m. (see the
town office for details)

Faro Mine Closure *UPDATE*

March 2007

Issue #1



The Faro Mine complex, with a footprint of over 25 km², consists of three distinct areas: the Faro Mine area (shown above), the Rose Creek tailings impoundment situated in Rose Creek Valley, and the Vangorda Plateau.

What is the Faro Mine Complex?

For many years, the mine near the Town of Faro produced lead, zinc, silver, and gold. In its day, the mine was one of the largest open pit lead-zinc mines in the world. Mining at the Faro complex began in 1969 and lasted on and off for almost 30 years. In 1998, the final owner, Anvil Range Mining Corporation, was placed into receivership and all mining operations stopped.

Since 1998, the Government of Canada has paid for care and maintenance work carried out at the site by the court-appointed interim receiver, Deloitte and Touche. As required by the current water licence,

this work includes water treatment so that water flowing from the site meets acceptable standards. It also includes regular inspection and maintenance of all structures on the site.

Moving Towards Closure

In January 2003, the federal and territorial governments acknowledged that the Faro Mine complex would not reopen. The two governments then entered into a joint agreement with the Ross River Dena Council (on behalf

Moving Towards Closure continued on page 2

Moving Towards Closure *continued from page 1*

of the Kaska Nation) (RRDC) and Selkirk First Nation (SFN) to work together on the development of a closure and remediation plan for the entire mine complex.

Closure and remediation of the Faro Mine complex is a major undertaking, the responsibility for which

has fallen to government. A long-term closure and remediation plan must address issues created by nearly 30 years of mining. These issues include the potential contamination of water by over 320 million tonnes of waste rock and 70 million tonnes of tailings. They also include the ability of dams and diversions to withstand large floods and earthquakes.

Community Knowledge

The final closure plan will include a socio-economic impact assessment and an environmental impact assessment as part of preparation for the YESAA screening process. These assessments help the closure team understand the current and possible future uses of the mine area, together with potential impacts on the surrounding communities and ecosystems. From this understanding, it is possible to include elements in the final closure plan that help to expand on any possible positive impacts, and mitigate any future negative impacts.

Traditional knowledge of the RRDC and SFN is an essential part of developing this overall picture, and will be compiled and provided by the communities themselves. We hope to have this work in progress very soon.

CLOSURE OBJECTIVES FOR THE FARO MINE COMPLEX

The Government of Canada, the Yukon government, RRDC and SFN worked together to create closure objectives for the Faro Mine complex. These objectives define the desired results of a closure and remediation plan and guide the entire closure planning process.

1. Protect human health and safety.
2. Protect and, to the extent practicable, restore the environment including land, air, water, fish and wildlife.
3. Return the mine site to an acceptable state of use that reflects pre-mining land use where practicable.
4. Maximize local and Yukon socio-economic benefits.
5. Manage long-term site risk in a cost-effective manner.



The Faro pit.



The Vangorda pit.



RRDC employees cut abandoned machinery down to scrap metal for removal from the Faro Mine complex.

Informing the Public

There are many technical studies that are being used (some studies are still continuing) to find the best ways of reducing major environmental concerns at the Faro mine complex.

The results of these studies helped to create a range of 12 “example” alternatives - engineering designs that try to protect human health and safety, and where possible, restore the environment. The “example” alternatives also try to return the area to an acceptable state of use for future generations.

In the spring of 2006, these alternatives were presented to community members in Faro, Ross River, and Pelly Crossing. They were also presented to the territorial and federal governments.

Over the fall and winter of 2006, a group of nine experts from a variety of technical fields were asked to give an independent assessment of the 12 “example” alternatives. The group of experts concluded that the technical studies and the range of alternatives fulfil the information requirements needed to evaluate closure options.

However, the review group also suggested that a number of the alternatives could be combined for ease of understanding. This echoed much of the feedback received during the spring of 2006 community meetings. In addition, the review group identified a variation for stabilizing the tailings in place with a water cover.

CLOSURE OPTIONS

The design team has now refined and condensed the list of 12 alternatives to reflect the feedback from the expert group and the community consultations. This has resulted in four closure options for the Faro/Tailings area and two options for the Vangorda/Grum area – six options in total. The table below shows the differences.

All the Six Options include:

- re-sloping of waste rock dumps, covering with soil, and vegetating; and
- managing, collecting and treating surface and ground water, where necessary, from the site.

SPRING 2006 - 12 Options

Faro Mine

1. Upgrade Faro Creek Diversion
2. Flow-Through Pit
3. Minimize Construction
4. Minimize Water Treatment

Tailings Area

5. Stabilize in Place
6. Complete Relocation
7. Partial Relocation
8. Minimize Construction

Vangorda/Grum

9. Backfill Vangorda Pit
10. Stabilize in Place
11. Minimize Construction
12. Minimize Water Treatment

SPRING 2007 - 6 Options

Faro Mine/Tailings

1. Stabilize in Place – Soil cover
2. Stabilize in Place – Water cover
3. Full Relocation
4. Partial Relocation

Vangorda/Grum

5. Backfill Vangorda Pit
6. Stabilize in Place