

Article #3 ~ Monitoring Water & Fish at Mount Nansen Mine



Jamie Roberts collects water samples to check levels of metals at Mount Nansen Mine

How safe is the water and the fish at Mount Nansen Mine?

This past summer, Environmental Dynamics Inc. with assistance from Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation members conducted studies on the impact of the Mount Nansen mine on the surrounding land and water. At the start of the study, community members were asked about what type of fish they harvested to make sure the right things were studied in the research. The researchers tested the environment, including water and fish, for levels of metal, to see if there were signs of impact from the mine.

Generally, the tests show that there is not much impact of the mine on the water downstream. This article will describe what the research found out about water and fish. If you are interested in more information about the land, plants and wildlife, check out last month's article in the Hooter.

WATER ~ Water quality is an important issue for the Mount Nansen Mine. The stream bottom in Upper Dome Creek has higher levels of

metals than normal, though the sediment levels are normal in Lower Dome and Victoria Creek. These creeks are monitored on a regular basis and more studies are planned for this year.

FISH ~ Fish from Victoria Creek were collected and studied. Sculpins have a slightly higher level of metals as did the one burbot sampled. More samples need to be collected this summer. Grayling have normal levels of metals and you should not be concerned about eating these fish. Due to the falls at the bottom of Dome Creek that stop fish from moving upstream, no fish were found in this area.

Your Health ~ studies to date suggest that there are only small levels of metal contamination in the water and fish. More studies are planned for the summer. Until all the studies are completed, it is wise to not collect plants, fish and animals from immediately around the mine site. There is no concern about eating moose, caribou and bison that inhabit the area around the mine site.

For more information, please contact:

Assessment and Abandoned Mines Branch

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
Yukon Government

Phone: (867) 393-7098 or toll-free in the Yukon 1-800-661-0408 ext. 7098

Fax: (867) 667-3861

Email: mining@gov.yk.ca

Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation

Nan, NenaDan Do K'anete – Lands Department

Phone: (867) 863-5576

Fax: (867)863-5710