



A view of the millsite at Colomac

Health & Safety

The Colomac Project Management Team is committed to ensuring that risks and hazards to employees, as well as wildlife, are assessed and managed to result in zero harm to employees and wildlife.

Safe Operating Procedures (SOP), which address areas of risk, are developed in partnership with workers. Potential risks are identified by workers, supervisors, management and Elders, followed by the development of written procedures to ensure the maximum safety for employees and wildlife in the area. Employees also receive hands-on training to ensure familiarity with the SOP, industry-standard practices and traditional knowledge for the area. ■



Fire safety training at Colomac

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What's HAPPENING at COLOMAC?

This past year saw significant progress being made at the Colomac Mine site, a former gold mine that was in operation from 1989 to 1997 and located 222 kilometres northwest of Yellowknife.

The Remediation Plan, which was submitted to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board in March 2004, has been approved. The plan was well received by the Tlicho communities, government and other people concerned with the project. It is anticipated the cleanup of Colomac mine will be completed in 2010, followed by ongoing monitoring at the site for a five-year period.

Summer 2005



This work will create or maintain approximately forty full-time equivalent positions. Approximately 50% of those positions will be held by Aboriginals in the North over the three-year contract period.

Tlicho Company Receives New Care and Maintenance Contract

In May 2005 it was announced that the Dogrib Nation Trustco Inc of Rae-Edzo was awarded a three-year contract, valued at approximately \$15 million, for care and maintenance and other site services at Colomac Mine. This will ensure the site remains in compliance with all health, safety and environmental requirements while remediation activities are underway. This is the first contract awarded in the territory of the Tlicho people since the Tlicho Act was passed earlier this year. ■

Hydrocarbon Remediation Update

Hydrocarbon remediation is one of the main activities within the Colomac Site Remediation Plan. Since the last update on activities in March 2005, the Hydrocarbon Remediation Plan (RAP) has now been finalized. The RAP provides details on how the hydrocarbon cleanup will be carried out over the next two years.

Geophysical Survey

In March, a geophysical survey was completed in and around the tank farm area. This survey was conducted to 'map out' any fractures in the surrounding bedrock that might contain hydrocarbon contamination.

Land Treatment Unit (LTU)

The LTU was completed in May and it will now be receiving contaminated material from the tank farm area. A screening plant will be used to sort the excavated material into different sizes. Most hydrocarbons are found in finer soil, so material that is identified in the screening plant as being 3/4 inch or less will be placed into the LTU for treatment. The larger rock may be washed using natural processes or directly disposed into Zone 2.5 Pit if it is found to be non-hazardous.



Work being done on the barrier wall

Sediment Sampling Program

Starting in July, a sediment sampling program will be carried out along the Steeves Lake shoreline. The program will show us if the sediments have been impacted by hydrocarbon contamination, the source of that contamination, and if the micro-organisms present in the sediments have been affected by the contamination or if they are actually helping to treat the hydrocarbons themselves. Tli Cho Logistics, as a primary subcontractor under the Dogrib Nation Trustco Inc., will continue ongoing care and maintenance activities at the site while remediation work is underway. ■

Traditional Knowledge

The Colomac Mine is located within traditional Tlicho lands. The area, which is a migration path for the Bathurst caribou herd, is used for hunting, trapping, fishing and other traditional activities. The Tlicho people have a very deep understanding of the land surrounding Colomac. This traditional knowledge is not written, but resides within the community Elders and leaders.

DIAND knew it was important to partner with the Tlicho to ensure their concerns were identified and to help select appropriate remediation options with the benefit of traditional knowledge. One of the first activities under this partnership was to conduct interviews with the Elders to record information on traditional uses of the site, including animals and plants that formed part of the traditional diet. This information was used to design field studies and risk assessments for current conditions onsite and certain remediation scenarios.

Tlicho Elders and leaders also met with DIAND officials to evaluate options for remediating Colomac. The Tlicho were instrumental in identifying ways in which caribou and other wildlife interact with the land and significantly influenced the remediation options for the site. Some examples are:

- The tailings containment area was cordoned off with a fence to protect the



Elders tour of Colomac

Bathurst caribou.

- With advice from the Elders, the use of natural barriers (forested areas and lakes) is sufficient to obstruct caribou migration through the open pit areas. The existing berms around the open pits, with minor upgrades, would protect the caribou (and humans).
- Elders helped assess and rank the level of risk associated with the onsite quarries to determine which quarries would require remediation.
- Waste rock piles extend onto traditional caribou migration paths. Rather than relocating the rock, the Elders recommended that alternative paths be cleared through the bush. ■



A view of Zone 2.5 pit where non-hazardous waste rock is collected



Overview of the Land Treatment Unit (LTU)

Care & Maintenance

Care and maintenance activities at the site will consist of operating and maintaining the fully functional Crown-supplied camp facilities including equipment, operating and maintaining generators and pumps, operating the water diversion system during spring melt, maintenance of all site roads and the aerodrome, and ensuring the site is maintained in a safe and environmentally compliant manner. The Dogrib Nation Trustco Inc will also provide support to other contractors onsite to complete the major remediation activities during the three-year period. ■