

Faro Mine

REMEDIATION PROJECT

FARO MINE FACTS

- Was once the largest open pit lead-zinc mine in the world
- The Faro Mine Complex is 25 square kilometers and located outside the Town of Faro, Yukon, on the traditional territory of Ross River Dena Council, part of the Kaska Nation, and upstream from Selkirk First Nation
- The current remediation project encompasses the Faro Mine Site. It is one of the most complex abandoned mine clean-up projects in Canada today. Care and Maintenance at the Vangorda Mine Site continues while long term plans are confirmed
- Known as Tsē Zūl in the Kaska language, the area where the mine site is located is of great importance to Kaska people



57 million tonnes of tailings



The Challenge

- Following 30 years of active mining, the Faro Mine Complex was abandoned in 1998 when the owner declared bankruptcy
- Processing the valuable minerals left behind waste rock and tailings (finely crushed particles) that leach heavy metals and acid into the land and water, posing risks to the health and safety of people, the environment, fish and wildlife
- Our challenge is to clean up the historical contamination caused by the former mine in partnership with First Nations who have most directly been affected by it

Working Together

Government of Canada

- Funds all remediation work
- Leads site monitoring, care and maintenance
- Leads project planning and work to secure regulatory approvals
- Will lead active remediation of the site, followed by long-term monitoring and management
- Leads consultation and engagement

First Nations partners

- Ross River Dena Council, Liard First Nation and Selkirk First Nation are engaged in the project on an ongoing basis through their involvement in project governance committees and technical working groups
- Ensure all aspects of the project include First Nations values and perspectives
- Lead Kaska efforts to reconnect to Tsē Zūl
- Help identify opportunities for sustainable socio-economic benefits

Stakeholders, regulators and other interested parties

- The Town of Faro, Government of Yukon, Natural Resources Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and other interested parties such as environmental and conservation groups regularly receive project updates and provide input that shapes the project

Our Plan

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

There are 5 overarching objectives that guide the remediation project. They are to:

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

PILLARS OF REMEDIATION

Until active remediation begins, the site is in a state of care and maintenance to ensure that it remains stable and secure.

The site will then be remediated using a 'stabilize in place' approach, where contaminated material will remain on site and be managed safely. Key features include:

- Upgrading dams to ensure tailings stay in place
- Re-shaping, covering, revegetating and establishing surface drainage on waste rock and tailings
- Extending and upgrading stream diversions to keep clean and contaminated water separate
- Upgrading contaminated water collection and treatment systems
- Removing and remediating historical mine structures

Path to Remediation

- ☑ Undertake care and maintenance of the site
- ☑ Implement urgent works until active remediation can begin

Work with partners, stakeholders, regulators and other interested parties to:

- ☑ Develop a plan for remediating the site
- ☑ Select and approve an approach to remediation
- ☐ Complete remediation designs
- ☐ Secure regulatory approvals, licenses and authorizations
- ☐ Implement the remediation plan
- ☐ Execute active remediation and major construction (approx. 15 years)
- ☐ Perform significant operation, monitoring and maintenance (approx. 10 years)
- ☐ Undertake ongoing management and monitoring into the long-term

