



Faro Mine
REMEDIATION PROJECT

Canada

Newsletter | August 2024

Start of the 2024 Water Treatment Season

The Interim Water Treatment System began treating water and discharging it into the environment on April 17, 2024. This is about 1 week earlier than the system has historically began its seasonal operation. Given this earlier start-up, the amount of water treated from the Interim Water Treatment System has been 14% higher than expected as of June 30, 2024.

The Cross Valley Pond Treatment Plant started operations on June, 9th and the Vangorda Water Treatment Plant began its treatment season on May 28, 2024, which is on track with the previous years' start up.

Faro Pit Water Elevation Update

The Faro Pit water elevation was reduced by 4.3m during the 2023 treatment season. This, along with a relatively dry winter and cold spring, and an early start to the 2024 water treatment season, has allowed the water elevation to be managed below the anticipated level and within the operational limits for the pit.

Efforts are currently focused on improving processes and upgrading both the Interim Water Treatment System and the Cross Valley Pond Treatment Plant. The goal is to bring the pit water elevation down, as close as possible to within the recommended end-of-season levels.

Regulatory Updates

Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment- Screening Phase Continues

The Faro Mine Remediation Project continues to progress through the Yukon environmental and socio-economic assessment process. The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's Executive Committee issued a Recommendation and screening report on July 5. The recommendation is being considered by Decision Bodies for the assessment of the project. Requests have been sent to First Nation Governments to consult on a possible decision.

To review the Faro Mine Remediation assessment documents, access them on the [YESAB Online Registry](#) by searching for the Faro Mine Remediation Project (Project #2019-0149). A Plain Language Summary of the Faro Mine Remediation Project Proposal is available on the YESAB Online Registry (document #2019-0149-0638).

Water License and Fisheries Act Authorization Applications are Upcoming

The project team and regulatory contractors have begun gathering information for the Faro Mine Remediation Project's Water License and Fisheries Act Authorization applications. Various engagement sessions on the contents of these applications have been planned with communities.

Technical engagement on the applications is also underway with First Nations and stakeholders with sessions are scheduled to discuss the following topics:

- Climate Change Scenarios, Modelling Review, Draft Water Quality Adaptive Management Plan, and Monitoring and Management Plans,
- Effluent Quality Standards, and
- Remediation Plan.

The active remediation phase of the Faro Mine Remediation Project will be initiated once the assessment process is complete and the required permits, licences and authorizations are obtained. Until then, care and maintenance and urgent risk mitigation work are ongoing at the site to ensure it remains stable and secure.

Engagement Team Updates

Faro Mine Remediation Project Teams Attend the Ross River Job Fair

Dena Nezziddi Development Corporation hosted a job fair on April 4, 2024 at the Ross River school. There was a fantastic turn-out from the community and the gymnasium was full of different organizations discussing employment and training opportunities. The job fair was well-attended by Faro Mine Remediation Project consultants, including representatives from the design team (AECOM, Tetra Tech and Ausenco), the environmental monitoring consultant (ENSERO) and the Main Construction Manager (Parsons).

The Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) engagement team, alongside Kathlene Suza, put up an information booth to discuss the project with community members, hear concerns and introduce them to project contractors so they could learn more about opportunities at the Faro Mine Site.

Thank you very much to Dena Nezziddi for hosting such a wonderful event and to Ross River Dena Council for welcoming the project team to the community.



Photo of the Ross River Job Fair. (Photo courtesy of CIRNAC)

Engagement Team and Consultants Present at Selkirk Elementary School

The Faro Mine Remediation Project design consultant (AECOM) and the CIRNAC engagement team were invited to Selkirk Elementary School in Whitehorse to discuss the project with the Grade 5/6 class. The presentation focused on the history of the Faro Mine, its impacts on the Kaska Dena and how the mine site will be remediated to keep the environment and people safe.

The project team was grateful for this special opportunity, and very impressed by the depth of understanding that the students had about the importance of cleaning up contaminated sites and their impacts on local communities.

If you would like to organize something similar in your school please contact the project team at faromine@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

Ross River Community Dinner and Open House

Members of the CIRNAC project team visited Ross River on June 12th, 2024 to host a community dinner and open house alongside Dena Nezziddi Development Corporation. The Faro Mine Remediation Project's Director, Geoff Karcher, answered questions from community members and shared information on plans for remediating the Faro Mine site.

The presentation focused on concerns that the project team has heard from Ross River Dena Council members and the importance of progressing through the regulatory process so that remediation can begin. Dena Nezziddi also shared a number of successes they have had with their involvement in the project, along with their hopes for future growth.



Ross River community members heard from members of the project team during the open house. (Photo courtesy of CIRNAC)

Parsons Now Accepting Applications 2024 Kaska Scholarship Program

The Kaska scholarship program provides \$2 500 to a Kaska First Nation student pursuing post-secondary education or trades certification related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), the environmental remediation field or Faro Mine Remediation Project Care and Maintenance related trades. **Applications close October 1, 2024.**

For more information about the scholarship program, including eligibility criteria, visit the [Parsons Faro Mine Remediation Project website](#).

Faro Mine Remediation Project Offers Site Tours during the 20th Annual Crane & Sheep Festival

The Town of Faro hosted their 20th Annual Crane & Sheep Festival from May 3-5, 2024. This annual event is a celebration of the unique wildlife and natural beauty the region has to offer and features a variety of activities and attractions, wildlife presentations and viewing.

This year Parsons was thrilled to contribute to the festivities by offering public tours of the Faro Mine Remediation Project site. Tours traveled to site where all guests were provided with a visitor safety briefing, outfitted with personal protective equipment and given a 45-minute tour of the site. Tour guests also participated in a fun quiz at the end of the tour with an opportunity to win a Faro Mine Remediation Project t-shirt. Tour participants included a mix of Yukon-based locals and residents from other areas of Canada.



Parsons worked with Yukon-based tour operator Who, What, Where Tours to host up to 12 guests per tour of the Faro Mine Remediation Project site. (Photo courtesy of Parsons)

Improving Water Collection in the North Fork of Rose Creek with the Haul Road Bypass System

Since the North Fork of Rose Creek clean water diversion channel was commissioned in 2021, the site has been challenged with managing water flows in the ancestral channel of the creek. Over the winter and spring, an ice plug forms which results in water ponding upstream in the head pond. When overnight temperatures remain above freezing, the ice plug thaws and water stored in the pond releases. This has overwhelmed the downstream contaminated water collection systems in the past.

In 2023, the Haul Road Bypass System was designed and constructed to manage water levels in the head pond to reduce the risk of releasing contaminated water into the environment. On March 18, 2024, a temporary setup of the bypass system

started pumping water from the head pond to upstream of the contact water collection systems. Between mid-March and the end of May, the system successfully moved over 34,000 m³ of water.

On May 30, 2024, the Haul Road ice plug melted and water flows increased with flows being successfully managed by collection systems which pump into Faro Pit. The weir at the interim contact water collection systems was not overtopped, and there was no release of contaminated water into the environment.



Photo of the head pond and Haul Road Bypass System on May 9, 2024. (Photo courtesy of CIRNAC)

Other Key Works Updates

Camp Update

Civil and electrical construction for a larger capacity, longer-term camp (MCM Camp) continues under Pelly Construction Ltd.. The camp is anticipated to be available for initial use in the winter of 2025 and, once fully complete, will be suitable to house around 300 workers.

Engineering designs for both the camp's potable water and septic systems have been kicked off. The design of both systems will include treatment.



Photo of the camp pad May 7, 2024. (Photo courtesy of CIRNAC)

Wildfire Risk Assessment

On May 28, 2024, Forsite Consultants Ltd. conducted an on-site wildfire site inspection to inform their development of a wildfire risk assessment of the Faro Mine Complex. The wildfire risk assessment will include wildfire risk and exposure

mapping, fuel hazard mitigation design, vegetation management standards, and recommendations specific to wildfire suppression systems. The draft report is expected in late summer 2024.

Upcoming Subcontracting Opportunities

Parsons Inc., the Main Construction Manager for the Faro Mine Remediation Project, is responsible for the management of construction activities and for care and maintenance repair and improvement projects at site.

Interested contractors are encouraged to monitor [MERX](#) for procurement opportunities available at the Faro Mine Remediation Project. To explore how your company can get involved in the work, visit [Parsons FMRP website](#).

For more information visit:

faromine.ca

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