



Newsletter | February 2025

Water Treatment Progress

Performance of the Haul Road Bypass System

In the August 2024 newsletter, there were updates related to water management challenges, particularly with the North Fork of Rose Creek. Since then, the Haul Road Bypass System has successfully managed water flows to reduce the risk of contaminated water release. Specifically, from March to May 2024, the system successfully moved over 34,000 m³ (cubic meters) of water equal to the volume of 13.5 Olympic-sized swimming pools – *for reference, an Olympic-sized swimming pool is 2,500 cubic meters*. Designs are progressing to optimize use of the Haul Road Bypass System in 2025.

Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

In 2024 there have been continuous upgrades to water treatment plants and systems (Cross Valley Pond Treatment Plant, Interim Water Treatment System, and the Vangorda Water Treatment Plant), and some design work done (Cross Valley Pond Treatment Plant) to improve water treatment on site and bring the pit water elevation down as close as possible to recommended end-of-season levels. At the end of the treatment season (December 3, 2024), the Faro Pit water level was below the recommended maximum end of season elevation.

Enhancements and Achievements in Pit Management

In 2024, the amounts of water treated, and pit water elevation were as follows:

Plant/System	Timeframe	Cubic meters of water treated
Cross Valley Pond Treatment Plant	June 9 – October 1, 2024	654,981 m ³
Interim Water Treatment System	April 17 – December 3, 2024	5,780,813 m ³
<u>Vangorda Water Treatment Plant</u>	May 28 – October 17, 2024	1,105,545 m ³

The Vangorda Pit water elevation hit the recommended maximum end-of-season elevation, whereas the Grum Pit water elevation hit the recommended maximum operating elevation at the end of the treatment season. Designs are underway including electrical upgrades to reduce downtime at the Vangorda Water Treatment Plant and convey Grum Pit water directly to the Vangorda Water Treatment Plant. This will help mitigate the water elevation in Grum Pit in the next water treatment season.

North Fork Rose Creek

The realigned North Fork Rose Creek (NFRC) channel is functioning as designed and diverting significant clean water away from sources of contamination. However, issues with seepage from the rock dumps continue to affect the area, and not all contaminated water in the area is being captured. Since this water was isolated from the main North Fork of Rose Creek water in October 2020, the project team has continuously been improving the capture of contaminated water in the area. To date, these improvements have included: doubling the pumping capacity in the Contact Water Interim Measure (CWIM) system, upgrading the electrical backup power, re-directing additional clean water from the Ancestral Chanel System (ACS), providing water treatment operator training, moving contaminated water around ice formations by using the Haul Road Bypass System (HRBS) so it can be collected all winter (instead of building up), and enhanced water management monitoring equipment.

Despite these efforts, some contaminated water due to rock-dump seepage continues to bypass collection so more work is planned. This work includes additional groundwater collection, additional clean water diversion, pipeline debris removal, adding connectivity to the capture system, and updating plans for high-flow events. The project team is focused on improving the capture of contaminated water in this area. Throughout this process, we will continue to monitor the water in the area and downstream to plan future works.



Map of planned upgrades to improve contaminated water capture in the NFRC area (November 2024).

Regulatory Updates

Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment - Decision Phase

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 Final Screening Report on July 5,

2024. Decision Bodies referred the Recommendation back to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's Executive Committee for reconsideration on September 27, 2024.

On November 22, 2024, a Recommendation and new Final Screening Report was issued by the Executive Committee with Terms and Conditions recommended to avoid significant adverse effects from the Faro Mine Remediation Project's activities. Before Decision Bodies issue their decision document, they plan to hear from First Nations and stakeholders.

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. Engagement sessions on the contents of these applications have been planned with First Nations and stakeholders.

From October 22 to 24, 2024, the project team met with First Nations and their representatives, the Government of Yukon, and the Yukon Conservation Society to discuss water quality modelling, the draft Water Quality Adaptive Management Plan, and the draft Monitoring and Management Plans.

Similar engagement sessions are planned in 2025 on effluent quality standards, and the 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, licenses, 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 and Community Events

Dena Cho Environmental and Remediation Inc. (Dena Cho), Integral Ecology Group (IEG — as part of the Remediation Design and Support Services team for the Faro Mine Remediation Project), and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) are collaborating to develop the Tsē Zūl Land Care Plan.

Tsē Zūl is the Kaska place name for Mount Mye but also speaks to the area where the Faro Mine site now sits. Learning from the successful community-based approach to revegetation, the concept of the Tsē Zūl Land Care Plan was developed to elevate and focus Ross River Dena Council community member involvement and knowledge sharing in other areas of the Faro Mine Remediation Project including:

- remediation design;
- management and monitoring (i.e. long-term land care/stewardship, wildlife/vegetation, monitoring and site operations);
- site infrastructure; and,
- other ways of reclaiming and reconnecting Ross River Dena values, and relationships with Tsē Zūl (i.e. use of Kaska language on signs, educational components).

To guide the development of the Tsē Zūl Land Care Plan, an Elder and youth advisory group was established. An introductory meeting and mine site tour was hosted on September 18, 2024 to orient advisory group members to the mine site and the remediation design, and to discuss the objectives and structure of the initiative. CIRNAC would like to thank the advisory group participants for dedicating their time and knowledge to this important initiative. Sógásénlá'!

Still Growing! Community-Based Revegetation in 2024

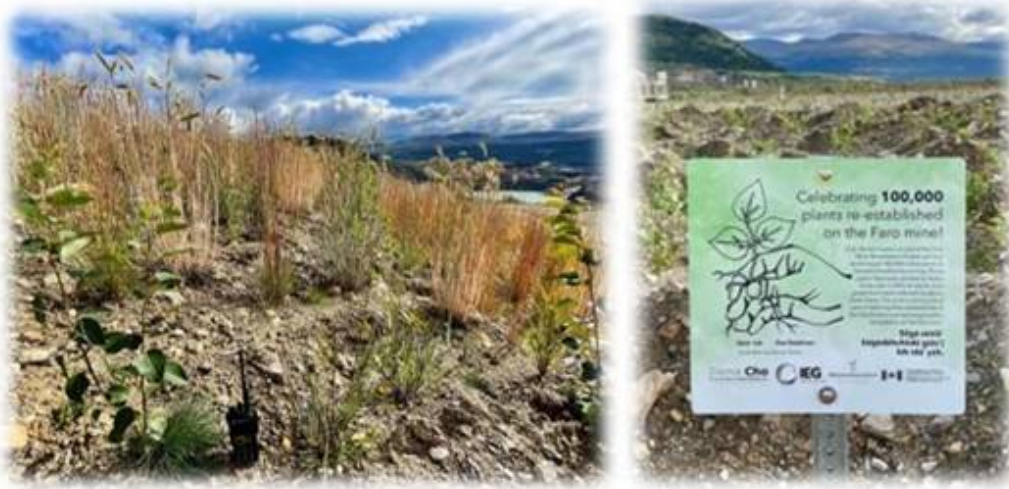
To support the common goal of advancing revegetation designs in partnership with Kaska stewards, the Faro Mine Remediation Project Community-Based Revegetation Strategy (the Strategy) was established in 2020.

The Strategy is delivered collaboratively by Kaska Dena, Dena Cho Environmental and Remediation Inc., IEG, and CIRNAC.

In 2024, the Strategy delivered its fourth annual planting program, and its third annual seed collection and metals uptake investigation. The planting program kicked off in mid-June with a well-attended event at Blind Creek, which celebrated two major milestones: 100,000 plants having been re-established at the Faro Mine site, and the first time that all seedlings were grown from Kaska-collected seeds and planted by Kaska people.

The seed collection and metals uptake work that occurred in August 2024, also included a special component this year. Representatives from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and North Slave Métis Alliance were invited to participate alongside Kaska Dena. Based on the success of the Community-Based Revegetation Strategy for the Faro Mine Remediation Project, the Giant Mine Remediation Project is hoping to support its own Indigenous-led revegetation program.

Sógá sénlá' kágūdéhchōdégūts'í h́h́ ídā' yéh - Thank you to all living things.



Left: Planted Landform, Cover and Revegetation Pilot (LCRP) panel on the Northwest Waste Rock Dump
Right: Commemorative plaque celebrating 100,000 plants being re-established at the Faro Mine site

Focusing on Design

The Remediation Plan Design and Support Services (RPDSS) team consists of engineers, scientists, and technical experts working to design how the Faro Mine site will be remediated. When construction occurs, the RPDSS team will also be responsible for doing quality assurance to make sure the designs are built correctly.

This team is made up of people from five different companies (AECOM, SRK Consulting, Tetra Tech, Okane, and Ausenco), and other experts in water, vegetation, and hydrogeology.

You might see team members at the mine site working on different investigations to gather information for the remediation designs. Investigations might include drilling programs, inspections of infrastructure, or installation of monitoring equipment. RPDSS will use the results of these investigations to do modelling and calculations, and to create the designs for remediation.

Stay tuned for “Focusing on Design” updates in future newsletters, which will feature an overview of a specific component of the Faro Mine Remediation Project’s design!

Other Key Works Updates

Camp Update

The temporary camp located at the Grum site continues to provide accommodations for up to 76 workers while the site for a longer-term camp is being prepared. The camp is owned by Dena Nezziddi Development Corporation (DNDC) who is working with Summit Camps to provide operations services.

The longer-term camp pad and on-site electrical construction is on-going under Pelly Construction Ltd. and Midlite Powerline Construction. In spring and summer of 2024, an overhead powerline was constructed to bring power to the site and civil work was undertaken to prepare the camp pad for the future placement of trailers. Remaining work is largely focused on completion of blending in areas excavated for construction material to the surrounding area (borrow reclamation), seeding, fencing, and on-site electrical for trailers, pad lighting, and parking receptacles.

Dena Nezziddi Limited Partnership (DNLP) and Parsons have entered into a lease agreement for longer-term camp facilities. The 288 person capacity longer-term camp facilities will be transported to site and setup over the winter of 2025. These facilities will have executive style dorms with single bathrooms, arctic corridors connecting buildings, recreational facilities, and a mud room area. Drinking water and wastewater treatment systems for the camp are also being designed for construction.

Ownership of the longer-term camp is a significant socio-economic success for Ross River Dena Council, and is the result of collaboration between DNLP, the Main Construction Manager Parsons Inc., and the Faro Mine Remediation Project team.



Aerial view of longer-term camp pad construction progress.

Upcoming Subcontracting Opportunities

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 related to the Faro Mine Remediation Project (FMRP). For more information on how your company can get involved, please visit the Main Construction Manager's [FMRP website](#).

For more information visit:

faromine.ca

faromineproject.ca



[View email in browser](#)
[update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)