

Request for Public Input
Environmental Assessment of the
Former Gunnar Mine Site Rehabilitation Project

What is the project?

Gunnar is a former uranium mine and mill site that operated between 1955 and 1964. It included both open pit and underground mining operations. Work needs to be done to clean up the site. This project involves the proposed decommissioning of facilities and site rehabilitation activities.

Where is the project located?

The Gunnar site is located on the north shore of Lake Athabasca in northern Saskatchewan, on the southern tip of Crackingstone Peninsula, approximately 25 km southwest of Uranium City.

Who is the proponent?

The Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan signed a Memorandum of Agreement to clean up the Gunnar site. Under the Agreement, Saskatchewan Energy and Resources (SER) was assigned the responsibility to ensure that a site rehabilitation project is carried out on behalf of the two governments. Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) is acting as the project manager for the required environmental assessment (EA) activities on behalf of SER. SRC is therefore the project proponent.

What is an environmental assessment?

EA is a process to predict the environmental effects of a proposed project before it is carried out. An EA identifies possible adverse (negative) environmental effects, proposes measures to mitigate (reduce) potential adverse effects, and predicts whether there will be significant adverse environmental effects, even after mitigation is implemented.

Why is the environmental assessment being carried out?

An EA for this project is required by both the federal and provincial governments, under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and *The Environmental Assessment Act* (Saskatchewan). Both governments are working together to coordinate their respective requirements in a single EA. Saskatchewan Environment – Environmental Assessment Branch is leading the federal-provincial EA Team, which includes the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, as well as technical experts from various federal and provincial departments.

At what stage is the environmental assessment?

The EA is in the initial stage known as “scoping”, where it is determined what project and environmental components should be considered in the review. A draft Guidelines-Scoping Document has been prepared based on concerns and issues raised by both governments regarding the project. This document includes “guidelines” that identify the information that should be submitted by the proponent as part of the EA process.

Where can I find out more information on the EA?

Information about the project and its EA can be found on Saskatchewan Environment’s web site at www.se.gov.sk.ca (Click on Programs and Services, Environmental Assessment Notices, Section 10, 2007-068) and on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry (CEAR) web site at www.ceaa.gc.ca (CEAR reference number [07-03-30100](http://www.ceaa.gc.ca).)

The draft Guidelines-Scoping Document can be found electronically at the sites above. Copies are also available at First Nations and Northern Hamlet offices in the Athabasca Region, and Saskatchewan Environment offices in La Ronge and Regina.

How can I get involved in the environmental assessment?

At this time, the EA Team is requesting public input on the draft Guidelines-Scoping Document. Persons wishing to submit comments may do so in writing, either by completing the attached form or by contacting the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency or Saskatchewan Environment - Environmental Assessment Branch. **Comments must be received no later than May 2, 2008. All comments will be considered public information.**

What happens after the public has commented?

The EA Team will consider the comments received for incorporation into the Guidelines-Scoping Document. The Guidelines will be submitted to the proponent to assist in the preparation of technical studies at the site.

The CNSC and NRCan will report to the federal Minister of the Environment on the scope of the federal EA, public concerns, and the potential of the project to cause adverse environmental effects. The federal Minister will consider this report and will either refer the project back to CNSC and NRCan so they can continue the comprehensive study review process, or refer the project to mediation or a review panel.

How can I stay informed about the project and the EA?

There will be other opportunities for the public to be involved in the EA of this project as it progresses. If you wish to be added to the **distribution list** for this project, please contact Saskatchewan Environment or the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

Request for Public Input
Environmental Assessment of the
Former Gunnar Mine Site Rehabilitation Project

Public comments are invited on the draft Guidelines-Scoping Document for Environmental Assessment of the Former Gunnar Mine Site Rehabilitation Project (the Project).

Comments are being sought on:

1. The proposed scope of the project for the purposes of the EA;
2. The factors that should be considered in the assessment;
3. The ability of the EA to address issues relating to the project;
4. Whether any additional studies or information are necessary to evaluate the impacts of the project and;
5. Any other issues of interest to the public related to the project.

Please refer to the draft Guidelines-Scoping Document for further details on the above.

If there is insufficient space to record your comments, please use another sheet of paper.

1. The proposed Scope of Project includes the following:

- Demolition of existing buildings, facilities and structures;
- Appropriate disposal of materials resulting from demolition and remediation activities;
- Rehabilitation of existing waste rock piles;
- Installation of cover on above-ground and submerged mill tailings, where appropriate;
- Rehabilitation of additional risk(s) as warranted;
- General site clean-up;
- Re-vegetation of areas of the rehabilitated site as required; and
- Appropriate monitoring during and after rehabilitation

In your opinion, does the scope of the Project include all components of the project that are of concern to you?

Yes **No** Comments:

2. Factors to be considered in the assessment:

The draft Guidelines-Scoping Document outlines the elements that will be considered in the EA. They include:

- The purpose of and need for the project;
- The potential environmental effects of the Project, including the effects of malfunctions or accidents, and cumulative effects, and their significance;
- Measures to reduce adverse environmental effects of the Project;
- Alternative ways to carrying out the project;
- How the project will affect renewable resources now and in the future;
- Follow-up and monitoring programs; and
- Comments from the public

Please comment: In your opinion, are there other factors that should be considered? Are the boundaries (space and time) of the project assessment sufficient? Will the proposed factors cover all of your concerns? Are there aspects of the Project that require more attention than others?

Yes No Comments:

3. Ability of the comprehensive study to address issues relating to the Project:

At this stage, the environmental assessment is moving through a federal comprehensive study process as well as a provincial environmental impact assessment.

Specifically for the federal comprehensive study: The Guidelines-Scoping Document addresses whether a comprehensive study will be adequate to address issues relating to the Project. Criteria include: 1) public concern; 2) potential environmental effects; and 3) the ability of proposed mitigation measures to reduce adverse environmental effects.

In your opinion, will the EA, as described in the draft Guidelines-Scoping Document, adequately address issues relating to the Project?

Yes No Comments:

4. In your opinion, are additional studies or information necessary to evaluate the impacts of the proposed project?

Yes No Comments:

5. Do you have any other issues or concerns related to the project that you would like the provincial and federal EA Team to be aware of?

Yes No Comments:

Submittal of Comments

Persons wishing to submit comments on the proposed project and draft Guidelines-Scoping Document may do so in writing, either by completing this form or by contacting the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency or the Environmental Assessment Branch at the addresses or fax numbers provided below. **Comments must be received no later than May 2, 2008.**

Saskatchewan Environment

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