

Great Bear Lake Project Engagement Plan



**Contaminants and Remediation Division (CARD)
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)**

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Great Bear Lake Project

Project Description

The Great Bear Lake (GBL) Project consist of a group of sites including the Contact Lake mine site, El Bonanza and Bonanza mine sites, the Sawmill Bay site and the Silver Bear mine sites which are made up of the Terra mine and its satellite sites Norex, Northrim, Graham Vein, and Smallwood (See Figure 1, Appendix A).

All abandoned sites are located within the boundaries of the Sahtu Settlement Area, approximately 400 kilometers northwest of Yellowknife. The Silver Bear mines are situated within the Sahtu settlement area and the overlap area with the Tłıchq Mq̄whì. For this reason, beneficiaries of the Sahtu and the Tłıchq regions have assisted with development of the Silver Bear Sites Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and will both be considered for the Aboriginal Opportunities Considerations (AOC) through our contracting process. The other sites including the Contact Lake Mine, El Bonanza/Bonanza Mine, and Sawmill Bay site are within the boundaries of the Sahtu Settlement Area only.

Consultations have been held with both Sahtu and Tłıchq beneficiaries to discuss remedial options for the abandoned sites, and community involvement opportunities. The outcomes of the engagement involvement to date have been taken into account and decisions were made for various areas of the remedial work based on priorities and concerns identified through the engagement activities.

Objectives

The overall objectives for engagement for the GBL Project are:

- To increase Project understanding of stakeholder's perspectives, concerns and priorities;
- To increase stakeholder understanding of technical aspects and departmental processes of the GBL Project;
- To increase stakeholder involvement in the development of site assessment, remediation and/or risk management plans;
- To enhance public awareness of the degree, nature and extent of hazards at GBL Project sites; and
- To increase stakeholder support of the remediation and/or risk management strategies chosen for the GBL Project.

Efforts have been made through the development of the remedial options, and contract specifications, to include on-site community capacity building through training programs and creation of more management level positions, such as the community site representative.

The objectives of the engagement activities moving forward will be focused on information sharing of project progress to leadership, Elders and community members, and on capacity building, where appropriate, such as on-site training opportunities.

Project Background

The abandoned Silver Bear Mines comprises of five mine sites known as Terra, Northrim, Norex, Graham Vein and Smallwood. The underground mines that produced primarily silver, copper and bismuth were in operation from 1969 to 1985. Located in the Camsell River area, the mine sites are situated near the southeast end of Great Bear Lake.

The abandoned Contact Lake Mine is located near Contact Lake, approximately 265 km east of Déljñę, and approximately 12 km east of the abandoned El Bonanza and Bonanza mines. The mine site was originally an underground silver mine during the 1930s but was also mined for uranium in 1949/50.

The former El Bonanza and Bonanza mines are located on the Dowdell Peninsula, about 430 km northwest of Yellowknife on the east coast of Great Bear Lake approximately 10 km southwest of Port Radium and 12 km west of the abandoned Contact Lake Mine.

Sawmill Bay is located approximately 65 km southwest of Port Radium, along the northern section of the Leith Peninsula at the eastern end of Great Bear Lake. Situated on the edge of the Canadian Shield, the site comprises an area of approximately 2038 Ha (20 km²) which extends from the beach landing on the south shore of the bay, to the lodge area, to the two intersecting airstrips located approximately 1,000 m inland from the tip of the bay. The site lies within the boundaries of the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

The Remediation Program was divided into three phases to address immediate environmental and health and safety issues at the sites, and to provide more employment opportunities for aboriginal beneficiaries. Phase I is now complete. Completion of Phase II and III is contingent on project approvals and funding.

Previous Community Engagement

Various engagement activities have been initiated with both Sahtu and Tłjchq beneficiaries (i.e., affected parties) as part the GBL project. Sahtu beneficiaries engaged include leadership from Deline, representatives from Déljñę First Nation (DFN), Déljñę Land Corporation (DLC), Déljñę Renewable Resource Council, Elders and community members. Tłjchq beneficiaries engaged include leadership from the Tłjchq Government, Elders and community members. A full list of affected parties engaged is included in Table 1 of Appendix A.

The main methods of engagement have included the collection of Traditional Knowledge with Elders, establishment of a Community Liaison Coordinator, capacity building through on-site training opportunities, and information sharing through community meetings and science camps.

Traditional Knowledge Studies

As a requirement identified through the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) and the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB), Traditional Knowledge Studies have been completed for the areas that will be addressed as part of the remedial activities of this Project, including the site footprints, road access corridors and other traditional land use areas (ie., historic winter roads, traditional hunting and trapping routes, ceremonial burial sites, sacred sites, etc.). These studies were coordinated through the Community Liaison Coordinator for the Sahtu beneficiary groups, and through the Tłı̨chǫ Government for the Tłı̨chǫ beneficiary groups. These reports are outlined within the Resource section of this Engagement Plan.

Community Liaison Coordinator

The Community Liaison Coordinator position was initiated to assist in building relationships with affected parties, acting as a bridge between the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) project team and Sahtu beneficiaries. Administered through Délı̨ne First Nation, the Community Liaison Coordinator position was responsible for sharing project information with affected parties, coordinating community meetings, science camps, Traditional Knowledge studies and documenting key concerns and priorities of Sahtu beneficiaries. The position was funded from 2006 to 2012, at which point the project was put on hold. A review of this position will occur once project approvals and funding are secured for the GBL Project. Reports (i.e., Final Reports, Budgets and Work plans) documenting this position are included in the Resource section of this Engagement Plan.

Science Camps

One of the tasks completed by the Community Liaison Coordinator was the organization of science camps with Sahtu youth and Elders. The science camps brought together youth and Elders on the land, and provided them the opportunity to share traditional knowledge, alongside instruction from local science educators. The objectives of the science camps were to:

1. Engage students to further their education in scientific and environmental fields;
2. Discuss topics of concerns in northern Canada, NWT and Sahtu Region (contaminants on land, water, animals and fish);
3. Participate with activities within the school science and northern studies curriculum;
4. Participate and learn about Traditional Knowledge and activities;
5. Engage Elders and Youth to make vital links;
6. Develop links between Traditional Knowledge and scientific education; and
7. Learn the basics on sampling preparation.

This program ran for four year from fiscal year 2008/2009 to 2011/2012. The final reports summarizing the science camps are outlined within the Resources section of this Engagement Plan.

Capacity Building/Training Programs

To enhance the capacity of Sahtu beneficiaries to participate in the GBLake Project, various training programs and capacity building programs have been funded through Contribution Agreements. Table 1.0 outlines the Contribution Agreements funded by the Contaminants and Remediation Division (CARD)

of INAC to various Déljné and Tłjchq groups since 2005/2006. Additionally, some capacity building opportunities have been managed through the remediation contract (Phase I) as Community Oversight Monitors (SENES 2010-2011), wildlife monitors, and on-site training through the barrel clean-up program (2012). These programs will continue during Phase II and III of the remedial contracts.

Future Engagement

The INAC Project team will continue to engage affected parties as the project progresses. Notification of project permits and renewals (i.e., Remediation LUP renewal and Dension Winter Road LUP application) will be distributed to affected parties. Community meetings will be coordinated within the 2016/2017 fiscal year with both Sahtu and Tłjchq beneficiaries. All engagement activities will continue to be logged within the Engagement Log.

Any action items, concerns or priorities raised through the engagement activities will be documented and considered for implementation into the project as appropriate.

Contribution Agreements and On-site Training Opportunities will continue to be utilized to assist in capacity building as the project progresses.

Community updates will occur prior to and following any field programs, and will include Contractor technical updates (as required).

The GBL and Port Radium Technical Working Group will be established by CARD to provide a forum for soliciting guidance on land claim interpretation, economic benefits for the community of Deline, contracting, discussions regarding project work plans, status updates, assessment, and monitoring results pertaining to the GBL Project including:

- Improving understanding of the overall CARD site management objectives, work plans and timelines;
- Improving understanding of environmental assessment and monitoring plans and results;
- Encouraging bilateral exchange of information regarding the future direction of the GBL Sites and Port Radium Site;
- Identifying how to better involve Sahtu beneficiaries;
- Identifying community priorities and information gaps related to environmental and physical hazards; and
- Assisting with reviews and providing advice on issues of implementation for:
 - i. Assessment and remediation and monitoring approaches;
 - ii. Traditional Knowledge study approaches;
 - iii. Effective communication and engagement strategies

Funding and Resources

CARD will be responsible for funding community update meetings and the final post closure site tour. Approved travel and accommodations and all related expenses will be funded for any meeting over more than one (1) day. CARD will also provide funding for a translator if required. Elders will receive per diem rates for their participation as per Treasury Board guidelines. Meetings will be held either at INAC Yellowknife office or within the communities.

Feedback and Evaluation

Feedback is an important part of the mine remediation process. It is important the community members understand how their information will be shared and incorporated into the project decision making process. Every effort will be made to ensure the information is shared in plain language. Annual project updates will provide information on site assessments, remediation, monitoring, and applicable approaches/technology, as well as share any opportunities on site. All stakeholder engagement is logged (e.g. correspondence, meeting minutes) to ensure stakeholder feedback is recorded and saved. Stakeholder feedback is used to understand concerns, information sharing and inform decision making.

Table 1.0: Summary of Engagement Triggers and Methods

Engagement Trigger	Primary Purpose	Primary Methods	Primary Participants
Water License and Land Use Permit Applications, Amendments or Modifications	Prior to any regulatory submissions	Community/Leadership Meeting. Verbal and/or written notification	Community, Aboriginal organizations, Leadership
Annual Project Updates (including long term monitoring)	Provide and annual update on project status and maintain relationships	Community/Leadership Meeting. Verbal and/or written notification	Community, Aboriginal organizations, Leadership
Development of Closure Plan	Obtain Stakeholder input/feedback on closure objectives	Community/Leadership Meeting. Verbal and/or written notification	Community, Aboriginal organizations, Leadership
Closure Plan Modifications	Obtain Stakeholder input/feedback on closure modifications	Community/Leadership Meeting. Verbal and/or written notification	Community, Aboriginal organizations, Leadership
Development of Monitoring Program (short and long term)	Obtain Stakeholders input/feedback on monitoring objectives	Community/Leadership Meeting. Verbal and/or written notification	Community, Aboriginal organizations, Leadership
Monitoring Program Modifications	Obtain Stakeholders input/feedback on monitoring modifications	Community/Leadership Meeting. Verbal and/or written notification	Community, Aboriginal organizations, Leadership
Completion of Traditional Knowledge Studies	Document traditional land use in the area around GBL	Workshop, Mapping exercise	Community, Aboriginal organizations, Leadership
State of the Environmental Review	Provide and annual update on project status and maintain relationships	Community/Leadership Meeting. Verbal and/or written notification	Community, Aboriginal organizations, Leadership

NOTE: Engagement Triggers shaded in blue are completed activities; Triggers shaded in green are on-going; Triggers not shaded are still to be complete.

Resources

- Déljñę First Nation (2006/2007). Community Liaison Coordinator Final Report. CIDM#379571
- Déljñę First Nation (2007/2008). Community Liaison Coordinator Final Report. CIDM#140050
- Déljñę First Nation (2008/2009). Science Camp March 24-28. CIDM#298838
- Déljñę First Nation (2009/2010). Great Bear Lake Sites Community Liaison Coordinator Budget and Workplan. CIDM#350627
- Déljñę First Nation (May 2010). Sawmill Bay Traditional Knowledge Studies. CIDM#396028
- Déljñę First Nation (2010/2011). Great Bear Lake Sites Community Liaison Coordinator Budget and Workplan. CIDM#396414
- Déljñę First Nation (2010/2011). Science Camp Activities Project. CIDM#452551
- Déljñę First Nation (2011/2012). Community Liaison Coordinator Final Report. CIDM#515249
- Déljñę First Nation (2011/2012). Remediation – Science Camp Activities Final Report. CIDM#515251
- Déljñę Renewable Resource Council (August 2010). Community On-Site Representative Workplan Proposal. CIDM#422383
- Déljñę Renewable Resource Council, Déljñę First Nation and SENES Consultants (March 2012). Denison Road Traditional Knowledge Study. CIDM#518331

Appendix 1 – Site Location and Engagement Log

Figure 1: Map of Site Locations

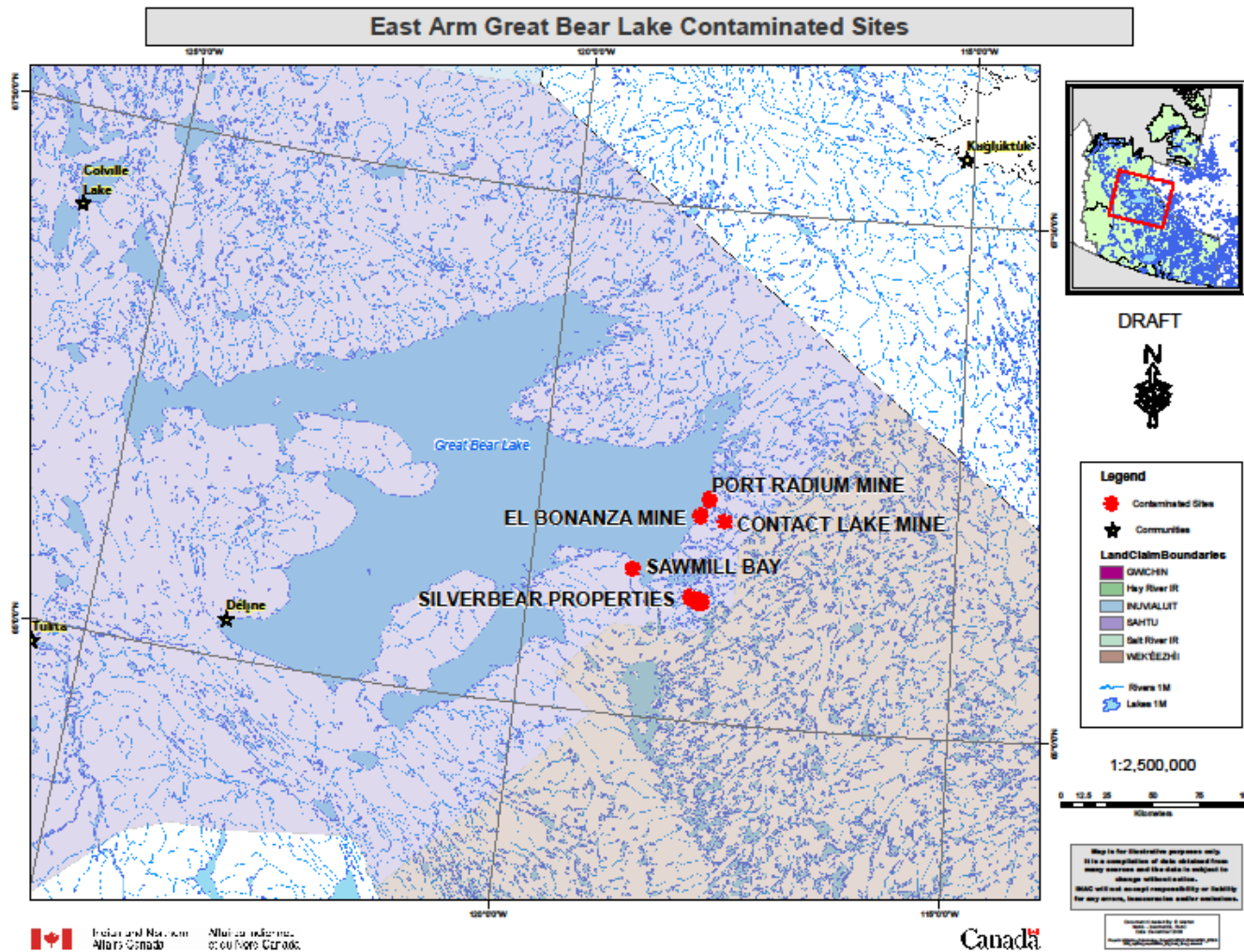


Table 1: Great Bear Lake Engagement Log (including the Denison Winter Road Engagement)

See CIDM#687860 for Engagement Log Details