Port Radium
CDUT and Opportunities Related to Local Involvement in Planning, Managing Expectations

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Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) - Contaminants and Remediation Directorate (CARD)

- Until recently AANDC had administration and control of the majority of lands in the NWT.
- CARD brings together all of AANDC's work associated with federal contaminated sites in the NWT.
- Abandoned or Orphaned Site: a site where the person or corporation that created the contaminated site is unknown or out of business and the site is on federal crown land or Canada Lands (e.g. reserve land).
Brief History

- Operated from 1930 to 1939 as a radium and silver mine by Eldorado Gold Mining Co.
- Reopened by Eldorado in 1942 for uranium
- Government of Canada acquired the mine in January 1944, operated as Eldorado Mining and Refining Ltd. Until 1960
- Echo Bay mines opened a silver mine on the property in 1964; reopened Shaft 1 at old Eldorado site and used milling facilities; decommissioned in 1982 to “standards of the day”
A village of widows shares its sorrow

Nobody told the Dene men the uranium ore they carried was dangerous.

Dene tell ministers story of ‘village of widows’

Uranium used in Hiroshima, Nagasaki bombs continues to kill Deline Indians, committee hears

JANICE TIBBETS
THE CANADIAN PRESS
Ottawa

At 53, Joe Blondin is considered an elder in his remote Dene community where so many men have succumbed to cancer.

Villagers believe the disease is linked to government-sponsored mining of radioactive radium and uranium.

The report implied the federal government is responsible for an unknown number of radioactivity-related deaths as well as 1.1 million tonnes of radioactive waste dumped in Great Bear Lake, Canada’s fifth-largest lake.

The Eldorado mine was initially a private venture when it opened in the 1980s, but later became a Crown corporation, producing the uranium used in many cases and counting, including another death last week.

But villagers say they began noticing an increase in the 1970s that men were dying of cancer before their time. Today, they say, a clear majority of residents are adults and children.

“Over the last 25 years, we’ve had nothing but cancer,” said Rachel, whose family feels their animals, fish, water and air is all contaminated.

A 1985 report by the National Research Council, as well as...
Canada’s responses to concerns

Feds to help Deline

Nault visits the Sahtu to pledge support to mine tailings clean-up

Deline and Ottawa will work together to decide how to clean up the estimated 1.7 million tonnes of radioactive tailings dumped in Great Bear Lake.

Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Bob Nault met with Chief Leroy Andre and the community of Deline Jan. 19, to pledge the government’s commitment to clean up or contain the uranium tailings at the Port Radium mine.

The uranium was mined by the Government of Canada at Eldorado mine in Port Radium and sold to the U.S. government for use in the construction of the first atomic bomb.

Nault said the government will commit to whatever resources are necessary to the project, but the first step is to work with the community.

“We want to start right away with the healing process of the community,” he said. “That’s above and beyond the issue of liability of the effects the mine had on the community members and their health.”

A forum has been established called the Canada/Deline Uranium Table with a budget of $235,000. It is in the early stages of establishing a plan of action which will outline the appropriate studies and investigations, to be followed by the cleanup and monitoring.

“We have started to a task that will be

Ottawa to investigate charges it exposed Dene to radiation

THE CANADIAN PRESS
Ottawa

without wearing protection.

“It’s just like flour,” Baton said through a translator. “It just starts
An **Interdepartmental Committee** was formed by federal departments in early 1999 (AANDC, NRCan, Health Canada, GNWT H&SS). AANDC was assigned lead agency in the negotiations on behalf of the Government of Canada.

In 1999, Deline decided to work in partnership with Canada. Using the self government table, a new table was negotiated: the resulting body is the **Canada-Deline uranium Table (CDUT)**.
CDUT developed an ‘Action Plan’ to Address Human, Environmental Health and Other Community Concerns

It recommended 3 years of studies (2003-2005) and included:

- Archival information gathering
- Traditional knowledge
- Environmental Studies
- Health Studies
- Risk Communication and Education
- Community capacity building through project management and training
Challenges were addressed by working cooperatively to develop a joint remediation plan and monitoring program as well as develop a unique procurement plan.
CDUT Recommendations/Goals:

- To carry-out the remediation of the Port Radium site as quickly and efficiently as possible which addressed the areas identified as most concern during the Environmental Assessment.
- Work must be done safely.
- Maximize Deline employment and procurement opportunities where possible.
- Maximize Deline capacity building and training opportunities where possible.
- Compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements including H&S and contracting policies.
Opportunities and Challenges

In developing a remediation plan, procurement plan and long term monitoring program which:

- Addresses community needs and concerns;
- Abides by AANDC’s mandate, program objectives and community commitments; and
- Is fair and reasonable and represents good value to the crown under PWGSC’s procurement processes.
Opportunities and Challenges

- The CDUT allowed for engagement of the community throughout the entire process.
- It built trust and mutual understanding.
- Allowed for misconceptions to be more easily dealt with and reasonable expectations to be set.
Opportunities and Challenges

- Hands on workshops allowed complex information to be presented and more easily understood. Increasing the knowledge and capacity of all parties and improving decision making.
- It identified critical stakeholders and community priorities early on in the process.
- Allowed people to have a personal stake in the assessment, remediation and monitoring of the site as they were involved in its design and implementation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals / Options Murphy Tailings Area</th>
<th>Leave as is and monitor</th>
<th>Fill in Sm. Pond at Murphy and relocate exposed tailings</th>
<th>Fill in Sm. Pond at Murphy and cover exposed tailings</th>
<th>Consolidate and relocate to McDonough TCA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health and safety</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protect fish, wildlife and vegetation</td>
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<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Med</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect GBL water quality</td>
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<td>Med</td>
<td>High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimize env. Impacts during rem.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimize Long term care and maintenance</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return site to its original condition where possible</td>
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<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Med</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is cost effective</td>
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<td>Med</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
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<tr>
<td>A / P / NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The Results

• Better information
• Local knowledge and skill sets
• Better Logistics
• Aides the Regulatory Process
• Less Expensive
• Better Project
On Going Engagement

- Long term commitment to the process on both sides is required, pre-remediation, remediation and post remediation.
- Regular updates are necessary to not only provide information but to show continued commitment.
- No matter what the process there will always be those that will not trust or believe. Be prepared.
Conclusions

• Keeping communities involved in legacy sites is difficult but worth the effort as there are numerous benefits

• The alternative is how these sites were created in the first place
Questions?