Saskatchewan Institutional Control Program

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Overview

• What is “Institutional Control (IC)”?
• Why do we need an IC program?
• Who is it for?
• How does it work?
• Cases
• Summary
The Life Cycle of a Mine

- Exploration
- Construction
- Operation
- Decommission
- Monitor
- Release
- Institutional Control
What is Institutional Control?

• A formal regulatory process for:
  1. allowing a site holder to transfer custody of a site back to the provincial Crown;
  2. providing post-closure monitoring and management once decommissioning and reclamation have been completed.
What is Institutional Control?

• Enabled under *The Reclaimed Industrial Sites Act* and Regulations
• Reviewed every 5 years
Why do we need IC?

- Many Saskatchewan mines are on provincial Crown Land leased to mining companies
- Mines have a finite lifespan – as do companies
- IC ensures long term monitoring and maintenance at these sites
- Establishes an endpoint for mining activities
Why do we need IC?

• Issues in the past
  – learning from the past and improving regulatory processes
Who is IC for?

• The area residents
  – Provides expectations for closure and an opportunity to regain access to reclaimed sites

• The public
  – Improves confidence and support for mining activities
  – Ensures the long-term costs are not publically funded
Who is IC for?

• The mining companies
  – Provides for release from future requirements
  – Provides regulatory certainty and a definable endpoint to mining activities

• The regulators
  – Provides defined benchmarks to measure performance against
How does IC work?

• Starts at Environmental Assessment
  – Conceptual decommissioning and reclamation (D&R) plan is described in the environmental assessment
  – D&R plan is made available through public review so that the endpoint is well defined and understood by all stakeholders
How does IC work?

• Decision to end operation is made
  – D&R plan is finalized and approved by regulators
  – D&R Plan is implemented
How does IC work?

• Post-decommissioning/transitional monitoring
  – Monitored to determine that work was completed as per plans and predictions
  – Transitional monitoring continues until “stable and improving”
  – Complete when D&R objectives met
How does IC work?

• Application for release made to Ministry of Environment
  – For uranium, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) licence exemption

• Once release is granted, application for entry into IC can be made to Ministry of Energy and Resources
  – Crown reserve is established
  – Land use restrictions are identified
How does IC work?

- Ministry of Energy and Resources
  - Negotiates with mining company for provision of funds for site management:
    - a) monitoring and maintenance fund (site specific)
    - b) “unforeseen events fund” (pooled for all sites)
  - Maintains dispositions for sites
  - Manages funds – Fund Advisory Committee
  - Manages contracts for any required work (scheduled and unscheduled)
How does IC work?

• Ministry of Energy and Resources
  – Maintains information about sites for public use including:
    a) Location of works
    b) Former operator(s)
    c) Supporting documents and copies of all federal and provincial approvals related to the operation, D&R, and release
    d) Schedules and results of inspections and monitoring
    e) Allowable future land uses
  – Issues annual report
How does IC work?

- Ministry of Environment
  - Continues to regulate and ensure compliance
  - Reviews periodic reports
Sites in Institutional Control

• Contact Lake (gold)

Contact Lake Mine, SK. / Mine Contact Lake (Sask.)
Before & After (decommissioned site 5 years after acceptance into the ICP)
Avant et après (site déclassé cinq ans après son acceptance dans l’ICP)
Sites in Institutional Control

- Beaverlodge (uranium – 5 properties)
Sites in Institutional Control

- Hanson Lake (silica sand)
Summary

• The IC program has been designed to:
  • ensure the health, safety and well-being of future generations;
  • protect the environment;
  • provide closure for the mining industry; and
  • meet national and international standards and requirements.