



SUCSESSES AND CHALLENGES: ABORIGINAL AND NORTHERN ENGAGEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION PROJECTS

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Presentation Summary

- ↳ Brief introduction to SRC's remediation program and associated engagement activities
- ↳ What is engagement and why is it important
- ↳ What it entails – barriers and aids
- ↳ Experiences with communities
- ↳ Questions and discussion



Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC)

- ↳ SRC is a Provincial Treasury Board Crown Corporation
- ↳ SRC Environmental Remediation Business Unit has scientific, technical and management expertise in environmental remediation, as well as experience working with regulators, communities, Aboriginal groups and industry

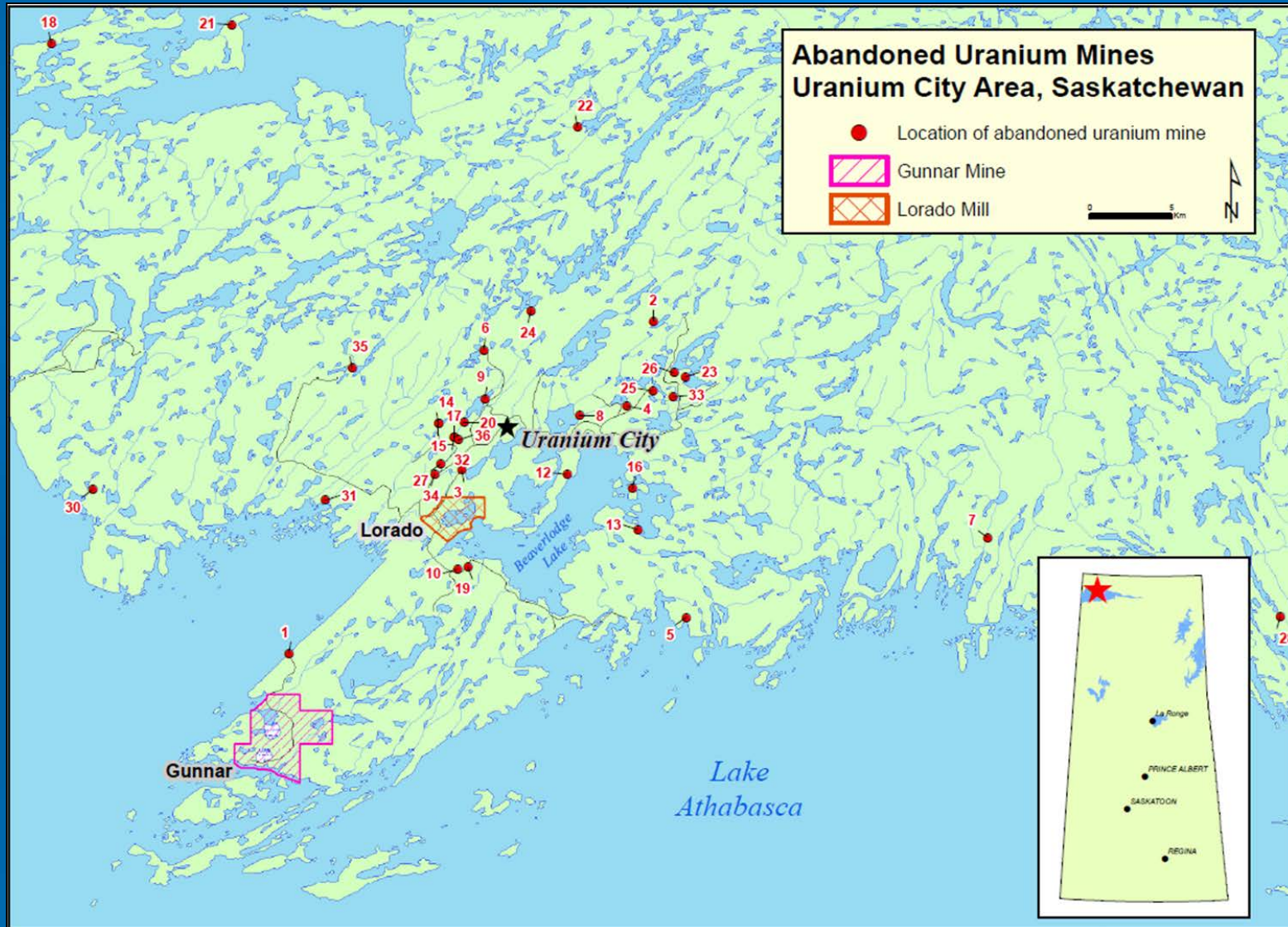




Overview of Project Cleans

- ↳ SRC is managing Project CLEANS under contract to the Province of Sask.
- ↳ Multi-year, multi-million dollar project to assess and remediate the following:
 - Gunnar Uranium Mine and Mill Site
 - Lorado Uranium Mill Site
 - 35 legacy uranium mine sites
- ↳ Funded by the governments of Saskatchewan and Canada

Overview of Project Cleans



Lorado Mill Remediation Project





Photo provided courtesy of Woodland Aerial Photography

Gunnar Mine and mill prior to building demolition in 2011



Gunnar Mine and Mill Remediation





Engagement

- ↪ We firstly and continually need to ask ourselves what do we want from the community engagement process?
- ↪ We need to define project objectives and communities objectives; and common areas of intersection
- ↪ Building trust is critical; must have and maintain social licence



What is Engagement?

Community's Perspective



- ↳ Trust
- ↳ Two –way street
- ↳ Joint program planning
- ↳ Long-term relationship
- ↳ Level of decision making – magnitude dependent



What is Community Engagement from a Project Perspective

- ↳ Something we have to do or want to do?
- ↳ What does the Policy say?
- ↳ The question we ask ourselves: “Are we willing to do what it REALLY takes to make community engagement real?”
- ↳ In other words change our plans based on results – Give communities a level of control
- ↳ Requires cultural change within workplace

Most Appropriate Forums

- ↪ Open Forums and Presentations
- ↪ Workshops
- ↪ One on One's
- ↪ Continual Feedback
- ↪ Language Translation
- ↪ Media
- ↪ Elders and Traditional Protocol



Meetings and Tours/Consultations



Barriers to Community Engagement



- ↳ Timing & Isolation
- ↳ Priorities
- ↳ Capacity
- ↳ History
- ↳ Preparation and Awareness





Four Important Aids to Community Engagement

CAPACITY AND TRANSPARENCY

- ↪ Human and monetary – dedicated resources, cultural change and commitment
- ↪ Say to all - what you need or want; listen and adjust; and do what you say; always be open

PATIENCE AND DETERMINATION

- ↪ If you are genuinely interested in community engagement, let it show, you may be surprised at the positive response you receive and the trust that can be built



Four Important Aids to Community Engagement

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

↪ If employees and community members feel that they are part of doing something of benefit to the community and take ownership, IT CAN BE A VERY POWERFUL FORCE



Community Engagement



Truly worth every effort by all involved!



Summary

↳ **SRC organized:**

- Start early; use local knowledge
- Capacity building before work began (e.g., construction safety and asbestos abatement)
- Hire local personnel
- Use local ideas to solve tech. and comm. challenges

↳ **We learned:**

- Regional economic benefit takes foresight and commitment
- Consult local businesses and residents for cost-effective logistics planning
- Facilitate employment readiness
- Manage expectations on all sides



Summary

IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST, GO ALONE.
IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR, GO TOGETHER.





Videos

- ↳ SRC's Aboriginal Mentorship Program
- ↳ Community Leaders visit the Gunnar mine and mill site

Questions and Discussion