

# Ruttan Mine Remediation

## Orphaned and Abandoned Mine Site Rehabilitation Program



# Construction

# UPDATE

### Ruttan Mine Remediation Project

The Ruttan Mine Site is approximately 23 km east of Leaf Rapids, accessible by all-weather road on Provincial Road 493, approximately 220 km northwest of Thompson, Manitoba and 1000 km north of Winnipeg by road. The mine operated from 1973 to 2002, for the purposes of copper and zinc extraction.

The mine closure plan calls for all contaminated water at the site to be directed to the water treatment plant, where it is treated prior to being discharged into the environment. The water treatment plant (WTP) is operated by an independent contractor. The contractor typically operates during open water seasons and requires regular delivery of materials for the treatment.

Ruttan Remediation work aims at reducing the risk of metals contamination at the Ruttan Mine site escaping to the surrounding environment and minimizing future operation and maintenance costs for the Province of Manitoba. Construction of the mine closure plan is in progress, but will require long term work to reach completion. Stages of work include collection of contaminated water, water treatment, improved drainage and diversion of clean water away from site, and covering the exposed tailings in the Tailings Management Areas.

The Ruttan Mine closure has been ongoing since 2012, with the current stage of the closure plan starting in late 2019 and ongoing construction works have made improvements to divert runoff and discharging clean water to the environment. This has decreased the potential for contaminants to leave the site, and reduced the amount of water that needs to be treated.

### Orphaned and Abandoned Mine Sites Rehabilitation Program

In 2000, Manitoba established the Orphaned and Abandoned Mine (OAM) Site Rehabilitation Program to address the public safety and environmental health concerns associated with orphaned and abandoned mine sites.

In November 2019, the Orphaned and Abandoned Mine Site Rehabilitation Program was transferred to the department of Conservation and Climate from the former department of Growth Enterprise and Trade.

Manitoba Conservation and Climate is responsible for the rehabilitation of orphaned and abandoned mines in the province, which include:

- impacted or contaminated sites that it owns or for which it is otherwise responsible; and
- orphaned sites for which a responsible party cannot be identified or does not have the financial means to undertake remediation.

The OAM Program aims at addressing the environmental and public safety concerns that remain with orphaned and abandoned mine sites in Manitoba. In addition, the Program will continue the remediation and monitoring work at these legacy-mining sites to reduce government risk to non-compliance with federal and provincial regulatory

### PROJECT IN NUMBERS

- ◆ 50 people working on site
- ◆ 4.6 M<sup>3</sup> of contaminated drainage was treated in 2020
- ◆ Over 500,000 tonnes of clay and rock have been placed as part of the TMA capping to date



Spreading of clay in the tailings management area

## Highlights

- Traffic

The construction requires a large number of staff, many who live within the surrounding local communities. A work camp has also been constructed in Leaf Rapids. With two shifts working at the Mine site, vehicles are travelling back and forth on PR493. As part of our commitment to safety, and working within the community, we are monitoring the condition of the road, and driving appropriately.

Equipment deliveries and materials arrived in the fall and will be minimal during the winter. However, most materials are being sourced on the mine site.

- COVID –19 Update

A key part of safety at site is our response to COVID-19. To address this, the Province is minimizing travel to and from Leaf Rapids, including all non-essential travel has been halted. Travel restrictions will be re-evaluated on an ongoing basis.

Construction Camp is complying with Provincial Public Health Orders and safety protocols and requirements, and regularly implementing new measures to improve safety.

## Tailings Management Area (TMA) Capping and Drainage Cut-off Construction

The Province of Manitoba issued two construction contracts through a public tender process in 2019 and 2020.

Accurate HD Limited mobilized to the Ruttan Mine site in September 2019, to divert clean water from entering the site and becoming contaminated. The work was completed in October 2020.

Strilkiwski Contracting Limited mobilized to site in July 2020 to complete the clay cap on the tailings management areas, which will keep surface water from requiring water treatment. This work is ongoing with planned completion later in 2022.

## Completed Work to Date

- Additional water (approximately 20,000 m<sup>3</sup>) has been directed away from the mine site, preventing it from being contaminated.
- Tailings Management Area 1 has now been capped allowing rain fall that collects on the cap to be discharged to the environment.



Spreading clay on the west dam and tailings management area

For Project inquiries and OAM Program questions, e-mail at : [EPRBranch@gov.mb.ca](mailto:EPRBranch@gov.mb.ca)

For more information visit the [OAM website](#)