



Supplementary Information

Renseignements supplémentaires

Presentation from the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN)

Présentation de la Première Nation des Chipewyan d'Athabasca (ACFN)

Regulatory Oversight Report for Uranium Mines, Mills, Historic and Decommissioned Sites in Canada: 2023

Rapport de surveillance réglementaire des mines et usines de concentration d'uranium et des sites historiques et déclassés au Canada : 2023

Commission Meeting

Réunion de la Commission

January 29, 2025

29 janvier 2025

ROR Oversight Report for Uranium Mines, Mill, Historic & Decommission sites: 2023





Introduction

VISION

We are the ACFN K'ai Taile Dene. We are fiercely protective of our Treaty Rights, our traditional land, and our language for future generations.

MISSION

We honour our ancestors' traditional ways of being and knowing, and innovate new ways to protect and preserve our Language, our Land, and our Treaty Rights. We invest in people, programs and infrastructure to empower our Members, strengthen and sustain our Nation, and to benefit our future generations.

K'ai Taile Dene laws

ACFN territory and the guiding principles for ACFN's Consultation Policy

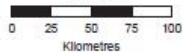
1. Take Care of the land
2. Take only what you need
3. Use everything you take
4. Pay respect process
5. Pay the land for what you take

ACFN Consultation Area



Athabasca Chipewyan
First Nation

1:3,600,000



Legend

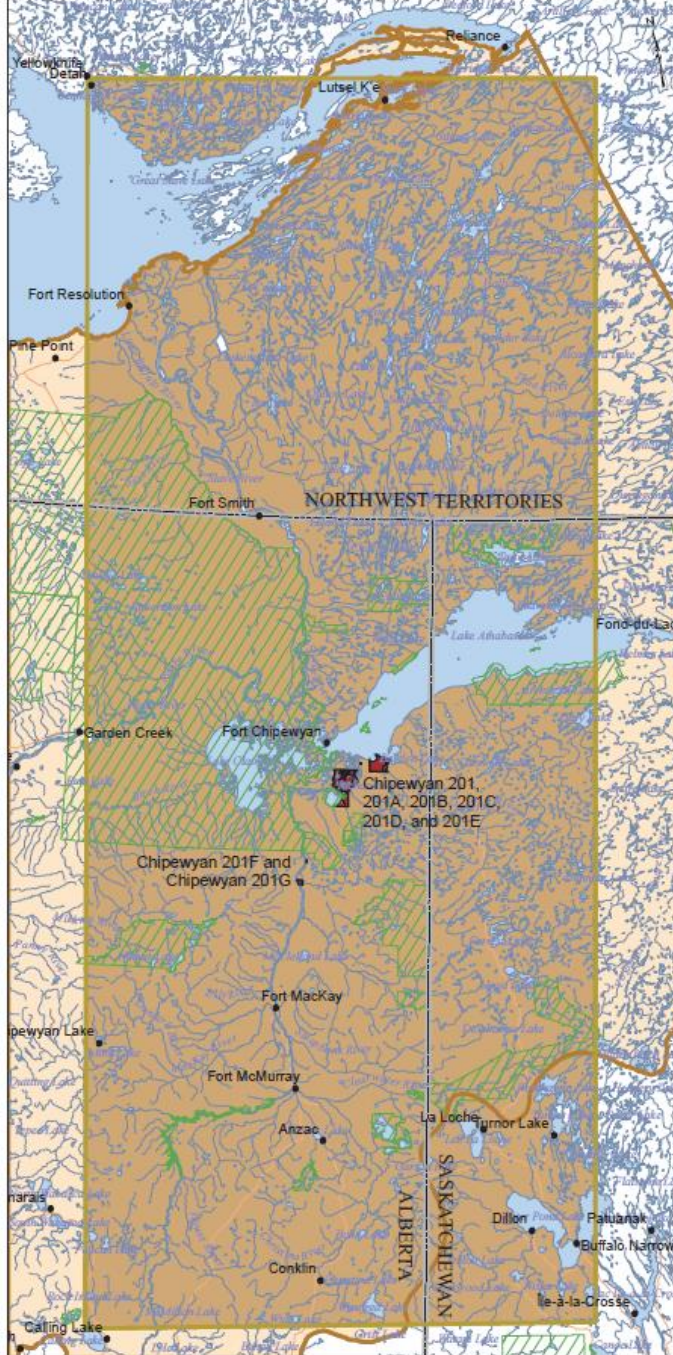
- Consultation area
- Treaty 8 area
- ACFN reserves
- Parks and protected areas

DRAFT

This map does not capture the complexity of ACFN's relationship to their traditional lands or the extent of the practice of treaty and aboriginal rights. Boundaries of the Consultation Area are subject to change over time as the recorded knowledge of ACFN land and resource use increases.

Map produced by Steven DeJoy of the Finlight Group on February 23, 2011. Base map data originates from the National Topographic System and Natural Resources Canada.

This map is preliminary, based on available information and constraints of time, budget and scope. This map is a living document and is intended to be amended and refined over time. It is not an expression of the extent of Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Aboriginal or treaty rights and interests. The data used to produce this map originates from multiple sources and are presented without prejudice. This map is property of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and may only be reproduced with written permission.



- ACFN are rights holders of Treaty 8 and do not acknowledge borders
- Have historic and decommissioned mines and mills in our territory upcoming proposed mines
- Many elders, land user and members have been affected



ACFN Elders' Declaration on Rights to Land Use

This is our Dené suline territory, our Traditional Lands. We have occupied these lands for the last 10,000 years and maybe longer. Our traditions go on and we have the right to continue our traditional way of life. We agreed only to share our lands and we still consider these lands ours. Clearly we have been here longer than anybody. The Government must recognize that we still have the right to use these lands.

Our Rights to use the lands and water on Traditional Lands have never been extinguished. The Traditional Lands, and our rights to use of the lands, are central to our Dené culture, identity and well-being. They are essential to the well-being of our future generations and their ability to sustain our culture in a changing world.

The meaningful practice of our treaty rights depends on having sufficient lands and resources to exercise those rights. Sufficient refers to not only quantity but quality, including what is required to fulfill our cultural and spiritual needs.

Technical Review Summary

- Technical review includes a total of 11 key recommendations.
- Highlight below are 4 key recommendations organized around the following themes:
 - Engagement,
 - Monitoring,
 - HHRA Assessment, and
 - Release of properties from CNSC licence.



Engagement

- ACFN is concerned that assessments continue to lack the input from Indigenous communities to ensure the environment and health of members who use the land and consume resources from the land and waters near mine and mills sites.
- ACFN feels their input and knowledge is critical to ensuring the health of the environment and its Nation's members are protected along alongside their rights as Indigenous peoples.

Key recommendation

- ACFN recommends that the process of engagement be improved (particularly with industry). The CNSC should follow up with ACFN to identify best practices for engagement with the community. Aspects of good engagement may include adequate timelines, communication planning, receiving feedback on how input is used to improve the safety and protect and restore ACFN members ability to practice rights.



Monitoring

- The plain language summary highlights “monitoring continues to show that the country foods and water surrounding the mines and mills remain safe to eat and drink.”
- ACFN is not clear what is considered under country foods and how they were determined to be safe? ACFN is concerned that Indigenous uses of the land and resources (e.g., drinking water from the rivers, streams, lakes etc. and consumption of animals and plants for food and medicines) are not factored into the characterization of risks to health and the environment.

Key Recommendation

- ACFN recommends that applicants actively engage with all local Indigenous communities and focus on identifying and understanding the unique risks associated with Indigenous land and water use, which may differ from general environmental concerns.
- ACFN recommends that monitoring programs include Indigenous indicators, measures, and/or criteria that works towards addressing the nations concerns and interests. ACFN has community specific criteria (Water Quality Criteria for Indigenous Use [WQCIU]) for ensuring its land users are protected from contaminants in water. It is recommended that the CNSC work with ACFN to build monitoring programs that aim to address community concerns and interests.



HHRA

- The report outlines that the protection of people is assessed in the Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA). The HHRA assesses hazardous and radiological releases from facilities, and it models the resultant concentrations of contaminants in air, water, soil and traditional foods (such as fish, waterfowl and moose). It calculates concentrations of contaminants consumed by a “typical” land user.
- “Typical” use (as utilized by the CNSC) may not reflect the intent or aspirations of land users in the future.

Key Recommendation:

- ACFN recommends that the licensee collaborate with ACFN to conduct a comprehensive safety assessment that identifies hazards to both the environment and the Nation. ACFN is particularly concerned that Indigenous uses of the land and resources—such as sourcing drinking water from rivers, streams, and lakes, as well as consuming local plants and animals—are not adequately considered in current safety assessments.
- ACFN emphasizes the importance of basing safety assessments on the needs of “heavy consumers” rather than “typical” consumers. This approach ensures that all users, particularly those with higher levels of reliance on local resources, are safeguarded from potential contaminants in the water, soil, and ecosystem.



Release of properties

- ACFN expressed concern that “decommissioning properties and deeming them safe ignores the legitimate concerns that ACFN and its members have raised.
- Choosing to move properties into the ICP would leave the properties unregulated and not subject to the same safety, monitoring, and regulatory requirements it has now; this would effectively close the door to remediating the impacts on land users.
- ACFN members who desire to continue practicing their traditional way of life will be unable to sustainably continue relating with the land and there is no dollar amount that will restore the Indigenous knowledge that will potentially be lost.

Key Recommendation:

- The commission must be proactive in its protection of the rights of ACFN and recommends deferring the decision indefinitely until the Duty to Consult or Accommodate has been fulfilled”.





Environment

- Crucial for practicing our treaty rights
- Water Quality Criteria for Indigenous Use (WQCIU)
- We are heavy consumers of the resources of the land.
- Indigenous input for characterization of risk and health to the environment
- CMB program relationship





Closing Statement