

### Closure Activity Update: June 2020

RGR continued its planning phase of the Closeout/Closure activities. General planning activities focused on project contracting for demolition of surface facilities, capping and placing cover soil (growth media) on the disposal cell and performing site characterization surveys. Vendors interested in bidding toured the site.

The on-site crew was shut down for several days in early June because of a possible threat of corona virus infection of one of the members. Early in the month severe weather caused a serious site-wide power outage. Off-site power lines from the power provider were knocked down and one of the on-site transformers owned by the power provider failed. The outage lasted approximately 6 days until a replacement transformer was located.

Most of the work performed this month was characterizing debris and cleaning out surface facilities for decommissioning.

### Activities

#### 1) MWTU Pond No. 2

- The 3 potential leak zones in the primary liner, identified by the leak detection contractor at the end of April, were repaired.
  - Pond 2 was drained (2 weeks); water was drained to the SSWP as directed.
  - Southwest Liner Systems Inc. (liner installer) arrived on-site at the end of June and repaired the 3 potential leak zones with extrusion beads.
    - No visible tears in the liner were observed but deep indentations were found at the locations.
  - By the end of June RGR commissioned Pond 2 for use.
    - Pond 2 has about 3 feet of clean water (source: Point Lookout well 8) in it to prevent the primary liner from shifting position.
    - Until necessary, Pond 2 will remain idled.

#### 2) MWTU Ponds 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

- The Final Status Survey (FSS) for Pond 7 was completed.
- Analytical results of previous radiological surveys of the other ponds were still pending.

#### 3) Ore Pile Removal

- Removal and transportation of the ore pile material continued. An average of 4 trucks per day operated 5 days per week.
- The overall number of trucks was reduced during the month because of mechanical issues on several trucks.
  - In-spite of the mechanical problems, approximately 2,300 tons of low-grade ore were hauled off site (to-date hauled: 23,090 tons)
- A dozer maintained the ore pile for improved dig efficiency.

4) Disposal Cell Liner and Waste Rock Pile (existing WRP)

- The bid package for constructing the clay cap on the pyramid portion of the disposal cell was completed.
- RGR held several phone meetings with MMD and NMED on the approval of the vegetation test plot plan.

5) WP5 Well, MW6 Well and North and South Force Mains

- The WP5 well continued to pump on a fully automatic cycle.
- The MW6 well continued to be pumped on a fully automatic cycle.
- The integrity test of the HDPE section of the North Force Main was retested and failed.
  - There appears to be no other repairs or improvements that can be made.
  - The HDPE section of the North Force Main appears to be the cause of the systemic failure due excessive expansion; The test approved standard only applies to steel pipe.
  - RGR has prepared a draft alternate standard for submittal.

6) Diesel Release Investigation

- Willowstick arrived on site and completed its geophysical study of potential groundwater flowpaths beneath the abatement and diesel investigation areas.
- Willowstick's final report is anticipated in July once data interpretation is completed.

7) Closeout/Closure Activities

- RGR submitted the reclamation and post-reclamation radiological survey work plan for approval.
- RGR pulled the well 7 pump in preparation of decommissioning work and deep aquifer monitoring.
- RGR completed a characterization study of the discharge pipeline in preparation for decommissioning.
- RGR completed a characterization study of section 13
- RGR completed a preliminary characterization study of potential hazardous materials.
- RGR completed characterization studies of facility equipment and began salvaging debris from around the site.
- RGR removed foam insulation from several tanks in preparation for salvage.
- The Carpenter Shop was prepared for decommissioning
  - Electrical was disconnected
  - Removal of equipment and debris began
- Equipment and piping on site were sorted and moved to appropriate laydown yards.
- Continued planning work on shaft closures.
- General facility upkeep involved pumping of abatement wells, cleaning storm drains and water control structures, performing dust control and maintaining access roads.

Forecasted Activities

- 1) Final Status Surveys (FSS) of MWTU Ponds 1, 4, 5, 6, and 8.
  - Anticipate completing the FSS reports in July once all analytical results are available.
- 2) Disposal Cell.
  - Anticipate starting construction of the clay cap and growth media cover in August.
- 3) Ore Pile Removal.
  - Anticipating around 11 months to complete.
- 4) Diesel Release Investigation
  - Anticipate starting the drilling phase in August.
  - Awaiting approval of the additional groundwater sampling list by NMED.

Critical Path Items

- 1) Approval of eastward expansion of the disposal cell.
  - Anticipating late 2020