

Closure Activity Update: August 2020

Most of the work effort for the month continued with cleaning debris and scrap from around the facility and in buildings. In conjunction with this cleanup effort, characterization studies were conducted to assist with sorting clean debris from contaminated materials. Work and planning priorities were modified to focus on the continued cleanup of the facility structures as RGR awaited approval of the mine permit modification request.

The COVID virus continued to impact work. No site personnel were infected, but contractor availability and access as well as supply chains continued to be moderately impacted.

Activities

- 1) MWTU Pond No. 2
 - Pond 2 is commissioned and ready for use.
 - Pond 2 will remain idled until needed.
 - Sufficient clean water (about 3 feet) will be maintained above the floor to prevent the liner from shifting.

- 2) MWTU Ponds 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8
 - The Final Status Survey (FSS) reports for Ponds 1 and 8 were completed.
 - Final Status Survey (FSS) reports have now been completed for all of the MWTU Ponds.

- 3) Ore Pile Removal
 - Removal and transportation of the ore pile material continued.
 - One truck experienced several mechanical problems, which contributed to the lower-than-normal load count for the month.
 - Approximately 1,837 tons of low-grade ore were hauled off site.
 - To-date hauled: 27,290 tons.
 - A dozer continued to consolidate the ore pile for improved dig efficiency and material management.

- 4) Disposal Cell Liner and Waste Rock Pile (existing WRP)
 - Completed a bid package for constructing the cap of the open portion of the existing disposal cell.
 - Still awaiting approval of the expanded disposal cell

- 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.

6) Diesel Release Investigation

- RGR submitted its updated Diesel Investigation Program Summary and Proposed Changes to NMED.
 - This updated summary and proposed changes incorporated the findings of Willowstick's geophysical study of the target area.
- The Diesel Investigation drilling schedule changed to October 5
 - Because of delays associated with COVID-19 concerns, program approvals and contractor work conflicts, the drilling company could not mobilize to the site until early October; drilling is anticipated to run for 2 weeks.

7) Closeout/Closure Activities

- Removed all materials, scrap and debris and prepared the following buildings for characterization studies:
 - Glycol building:
 - Electrically isolated,
 - Removed accessible 12" dia. Water pipes,
 - Marked glycol pipes,
 - Fan Shop,
 - Quonset Hut:
 - Electrically isolated.
- Removed rails from Car Shop to just south of the Trailer house (approx. 1,200 feet of rails)
- Cleaned all debris from the north area (Mine Water Treatment Unit)
 - A contractor arrived on site to demolish 5 unused storage tanks located in Borrow Area A.
- Dismantled a test section of the 24" dia. discharge pipe (by MWTU pond 2)
 - Radiological characterization of the discharge pipe indicated elevated gamma readings inside of the pipe.
 - The test-section was removed in order to evaluate a decontamination method.
- Cleaned up pump motors, drill pipe and electrical cabling from around Well 7
- Performed radiological characterization of numerous groups of sorted debris and scrap:
 - Concrete pipe supports in WMTU pond area
 - Concrete tank supports at former fuel-tank depot
 - The deep-well pump electrical distribution centers
 - Several storage trailers
 - Debris in Laydown yards
- Continued sorting debris and scrap for future burial.

8) Other

- Completed the 3rd Quarter Groundwater Monitoring sampling event.
- RGR mechanical breakdowns which impact site activities:
 - Water Truck – repaired engine water pump,
 - Loader – replace transmission, breaks and cylinders, in progress,
 - Motor grade – repaired mow-board cylinder.
- RGR sent a work plan to MMD for conducting the vegetation reference area study.
 - This study is anticipated to be performed in early October.
- Continued with routine site maintenance work

- Pumping tanks
- Dust Control
- Measuring water levels in monitoring wells and ponds

Forecasted Activities

- 1) Disposal Cell.
 - Anticipate starting construction of the clay cap in October.
 - Project has been delayed pending approval of the Vegetation Test Plot Plan.
- 2) Ore Pile Removal.
 - Anticipating around 10 to 11 months to complete.
 - Work will slow in coming months due to winter conditions.
 - Remaining ore is currently estimated to be around one-half the original volume.
- 3) Diesel Release Investigation
 - Still anticipating starting the drilling phase in October.
 - Project has been pushed back due to pending approval of the drilling plan and drill contractor availability.

Critical Path Items

- 1) Approval of eastward expansion of the disposal cell.
 - Anticipating early 2021.