enison Mines

POWERING PEOPLE WHEELER RIVER

WHAT WE HEARD FROM RESIDENTS OF ENGLISH RIVER FIRST NATION AND REGION

Thank You for Attending

Denison's Wheeler River Project team thanks everyone who attended its presentation via Zoom or on La Plonge's radio station (93.1 FM) on March 31, 2021, and for responding to the follow-up survey.

Although we are not sure how many of you listened on the radio, we counted 24 participants logged into Zoom to attend this online event, while some of you had others watching with you at home.

Thank you to the 22 participants who completed the survey. Seventy six percent (76%) of the people who answered our post event survey were between the ages of 35 and 64 years old, while 16 to 34-year-olds accounted for 19%, and 5% identified as being 65 and over.

Thank you for welcoming us to engage with your students and teachers. Thanks also to Tara "T-Rhyme" Campbell for being the emcee for the evening, to Elder Isidore Campbell for the prayer, and Dakota Ray Hebert for the entertainment.

The Purpose of This Municipal Presentation

We wanted to make sure that community members and leadership are aware of the proposed project, the plans for the future, the opportunities for the community, and to also give an opportunity to the project's provincial (Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment) and federal (Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission) regulators to participate and introduce themselves.

Wheeler River Project in a nutshell

The Wheeler River Project is located 35 km north-east of the Key Lake mill and 35 km southwest of the McArthur River uranium mine in the south-eastern portion of the Athabasca Basin region.

This proposed uranium mining project will use the In Situ Recovery (ISR) mining method, which is different than any of the existing uranium mines in the Athabasca Basin region - all activities occur at the surface, meaning there are no shafts/underground workings, no open pits, and no major earthworks. While new to the Athabasca Basin, ISR mining is the most common uranium mining method globally. A 10-metre-thick freeze wall separates the mining areas from the surrounding ground water. A solution is injected into the orebody to dissolve the uranium in place (in situ) and the solution carrying the dissolved uranium is pumped to surface where the uranium is extracted from the solution. The same solution is then pumped back into the ground to dissolve more uranium and so on in a closed loop. With this method there is no production of tailings and no large waste rock piles.



Community Insight

During the meeting participants asked many questions and also provided valuable insight in responding to the follow-up survey. Here are the main points made by ERFN members:

Of all 26 interconnected valued components (VCs), which are the environmental or social aspects that may be impacted by a project, you indicated that the following were most important:

- Air quality
- Community well-being
- Employment
- Fish
- Fish habitat and aquatic plants
- Groundwater quality
- Surface water
- Traditional land and resource use
- Vegetation

You also mentioned that you would like the Wheeler River Project team to consider the following additional VCs during its assessment:

- Consultation
- Joint ventures
- Knowledge of resource management
- Longevity of the land
- Traditional food
- Working relationships (particularly between ERFN and Denison)

Communication with all levels of membership (not just leaders) is important.

– ERFN Member

Keep those living on their traditional lands as

- a top priority.
- ERFN Member

As a First Nation person I feel it's very important for the habitat and aquatic life to thrive for future purposes.

– ERFN Member

You also told us some of your worries and concerns about the project. These are the main points:

- Use of acids in ISR mining
- Storage and shipping of the yellowcake and other harmful substances
- Impact on wildlife in the area around the mine
- Potential negative impacts to community health
- Possibility of the groundwater or the land being impacted
- Concerns about residual uranium leaking into the groundwater after the removal of the freeze wall
- Concerns about inadequate reclamation being completed
- Potential impacts to the people who use the area for traditional activities, and
- Potential for long-term impacts to the land not helpful for the community as it will harm the earth, which is needed for survival

You acknowledged some of the opportunities you are looking forward to with this project, including:

- Employment opportunities
- Opportunities for local companies (TRON and Des Nedhe)
- Possibility of royalties for the community
- Potential for community development and a collaborative agreement
- Training opportunities

You invited the Wheeler project team to continue its engagement activities with ERFN members and leadership with more consistent communication and updates to ensure that the project is being completed with integrity and respect. And more specifically you mentioned that "increased communications (quarterly) would be beneficial to the community, possibly through a community liaison."

You indicated that the use of online engagement is a concern for many community members, particularly given that Elders may not be comfortable with online engagement and their opinions are very important. You also mentioned that for engagement to be inclusive a translator should be made available.

The Next Steps

The information gathered by Denison through community engagement activities will be included in future value components studies when possible, and in our formal report to the regulators.

The Wheeler River Project team will continue community engagement through future meetings with community leadership and residents as required, and will continue to share information via our Wheeler River dedicated website.

We also anticipate that the regulators will inform community leadership and residents of opportunities to participate in the project regulatory review process when appropriate.

Denison is also working with Métis Nation-Saskatchewan to arrange separate meetings with Métis leadership and citizens to understand the distinct interests of the Métis in respect of the project.

Tell Us More

Denison is committed to engaging with our neighbours and invite you to contact us to share ideas or concerns with the Wheeler River Project team. You can also contact our team to request information or offer your services.

Email: WheelerRiverInfo@denisonmines.com Tel: 306-652-8200 Website: www.denisonmines.com