



Tłıchǫ Government

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Submitted To: Violet Camsell-Blondin, Lands Regulation Manager
Date: Nov 25th, 2022
Subject: Tłıchǫ-led Water Sampling Program at Kwetııǰaà (Rayrock Mine) Remediation Project

On August 30, 2022, the Tłıchǫ Government completed their annual water sampling field program for the Kwetııǰaà (Rayrock Mine) remediation project. This work was Tłıchǫ-led, and is a part of the federally funded clean-up of the former uranium mine.

Kwetııǰaà remains an important area to the Tłıchǫ people as a place where Tłıchǫ families used to live, camp, travel through, and harvest. The priority of the Kwetııǰaà (Rayrock) remediation project is to make the area safe again for Tłıchǫ use.

The Tłıchǫ Government and the Kwetııǰaà Elders Committee are working towards the clean-up of Kwetııǰaà (Rayrock Mine) in conjunction with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. The large-scale clean-up is anticipated to begin in 2023 and is expected to take 3 years to complete the majority of the remediation work. The clean-up work will be followed by a long-term monitoring program.

The Tłıchǫ-led water sampling program focuses on the area known as the Kwetııǰaà Avoidance Zone, which is an area surrounding the mine where elders avoid hunting, harvesting, and drinking surface water. The Avoidance Zone was mapped by members of the Kwetııǰaà Elders Committee in March 2017. The water sampling program was initiated in 2018 under the direction of the Kwetııǰaà Elders Committee, and 2022 marks the fifth year that sampling has been completed.

The sampling program documents the water quality on-site, downstream, upstream and surrounding the former mine. This is to clearly understand the extent of contamination, and to assure the Tłıchǫ that the Marian River and the surrounding environment is safe for use.

The analytical results for this year's sampling program will be reported in the new year. Previous sampling has shown the Marian River to be safe for humans, animals, and the environment, and that there is no significant change in water quality downstream of the former mine.

Sampling has shown that the water quality outside of the mine footprint generally meets Canadian freshwater aquatic life guidelines. Contaminant concentrations are elevated within the footprint of the former mine, however concentrations rapidly



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decrease with increasing distance from the mine. The mine footprint will be cleaned-up and made safe during the upcoming site remediation project.



Pictured above: Tłıchǫ water sampling team.



Pictured above: Collection of water sample from the outlet of Mill Creek.



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Pictured above: Helicopter landing site at Kwetııǰaà (Rayrock Mine).



Pictured above: Preparing to collect Gamma Lake water sample.

For more information, please contact:

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