

Cigar Lake Operations



Cigar Lake is the world's highest grade uranium mine and is located in northern Saskatchewan.

Since commissioning in 2014, the site has produced a total of 105 million pounds (100% basis). Commercial operation began in May 2015. As the operator, Cameco developed an innovative jet-boring technique specifically for mining this deposit. Cigar Lake's ore is processed 70 km northeast, at the McClean Lake mill, operated by Orano.

Cameco announced in May 2022 that it increased its ownership stake in Cigar Lake.

Cigar Lake was placed in a temporary state of care and maintenance for periods in 2020 and 2021. During that time, we monitored the pandemic situation and kept northern Saskatchewan communities informed. Exposure protocols were developed and implemented to ensure the protection of our workers, their families and their communities. Cigar Lake safely transitioned back into production in 2021.



cigar lake operation facts

Location

- 660 km north of Saskatoon

Ownership

- A joint venture of Cameco (54.547%), Orano Canada Inc. (formerly AREVA Resources Canada) (40.453%), and TEPCO Resources (5%)
- Operator: Cameco

Workforce

- During normal operations, Cigar Lake has around 320 Cameco employees and about 325 permanent and project-related contractors. About half of the workforce are residents of Saskatchewan's north.

History

- Deposit discovered in 1981
- Construction period 2005-2013, interrupted by water inflows in 2006 and 2008 and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021
- First ore slurry shipped to McClean Lake on March 13, 2014
- First Cigar Lake uranium oxide packaged in October 2014
- Commercial production declared May 1, 2015
- Reached full production of 18 million pounds in 2017



Safety as a Core Value

Cigar Lake's risk-based approach and strong safety culture seeks to introduce safety controls before incidents occur. The operation's solid safety record has been recognized by the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum with the John T. Ryan Regional Metal Trophy for the Prairies and Territories award for four consecutive years.



Protecting the environment

Comprehensive monitoring programs are in place at the Cigar Lake operation to help protect the surrounding environment. Samples of water, air, soil, plants and fish are collected from numerous locations around the site and tested to confirm that environmental protection systems are effective. Monitoring results are submitted to federal and provincial regulatory authorities for review. Cameco also supports independent regional monitoring downstream of its Saskatchewan operations to ensure there are no cumulative effects on the regional watershed. The extensive monitoring undertaken at Cigar Lake has identified no significant impact on the surrounding environment.



Regulatory oversight

In June 2022, Cameco's Cigar Lake licence was renewed for a 10-year term which allows Cameco to continue operating the mine.

For more information, visit www.cameco.com/businesses/uranium-operations/canada/cigar-lake

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