

Cameco COVID-19 Response - Cigar Lake Mine



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 93 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.

In March 2020, Cameco announced a temporary production suspension of Cigar Lake due to the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Cigar Lake remained in a safe state of care and maintenance with reduced levels of on-site personnel for approximately five months. 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 September 2020. Upon returning to site, workers were provided an orientation that detailed the new COVID-19 exposure control measures. In December 2020, due to uncertainty regarding sustained access to qualified personnel, production was again temporarily suspended. The timing of a return to production will depend on how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting the availability of the workforce, COVID-19 cases, and the views of the public health authorities.



cigar lake operation facts

Location

- 660 km north of Saskatoon

Ownership

- A joint venture of Cameco (50%), Orano Canada Inc. (formerly AREVA Resources Canada) (37%), Idemitsu Canada (8%) and TEPCO Resources (5%)
- Operator: Cameco

Workforce

- During normal operations, Cigar Lake has 350 Cameco employees and about 230 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
- 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 first

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 three 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 November 2019, Cameco applied to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to begin the process to renew the Cigar Lake licence. Cameco is requesting a 10-year licence and the hearing is expected to be held in April 2021. The current licence is valid until June 30, 2021.

During the current licence term Cigar Lake completed construction activities and successfully transitioned through commissioning to commercial production.

Throughout this period:

- Workers were safe and properly protected.
- There were no releases that harmed the environment or health and safety of people nearby.
- All treated water released from the facility met regulatory requirements and was safe.
- Environmental monitoring consistently showed that fish and plants were safe to eat.
- Cameco engaged with northern stakeholders to keep them informed of our activities.

For more information, visit www.cameconorth.com/about/businesses/cigar-lake-relicensing

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