

Rabbit Lake Operation



The Rabbit Lake operation began producing uranium in 1975 and was the longest operating uranium mine in North America.

Over more than 40 years of mining, the operation has produced more than 20 million pounds of uranium concentrate.

Historically, ore has come from four open pits and one underground

mine on the site. All ore from these mines was processed into uranium concentrate (yellowcake) at the Rabbit Lake mill. The primary source of ore since the late 1990's has been the Eagle Point underground mine which entered into full production in 1994.

In April 2016, sustained low uranium prices resulted in a decision to curtail production and Rabbit Lake was placed into a safe state of care and maintenance.

rabbit lake operation facts

Location

- On the western shore of Wollaston Lake, 40 km by air from Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation/ Wollaston Post

Owner/Operator

- Cameco (100%)

Production

- Historic: 202 million pounds

History

- Orebody discovered in 1968
- Began mining operations in 1975
- Full-scale mining at Eagle Point began in 1994

Eagle Point resources

- 38.6 million pounds of indicated resources and 33.7 million pounds of inferred resources



Eagle Point mine has been secured to ensure stability of mined-out areas of inferred resources and to ensure minewater can continue to be collected and pumped to surface for treatment during the care and maintenance period.

Environmental management key driver during 'care and maintenance'

The Rabbit Lake operation continues to maintain an environmental management program to ensure protection of the local and regional environment.

This program has been sustained during care and maintenance, including a monitoring program that remains largely unchanged from when Rabbit Lake was in production.

Minewater, water from the in-pit tailings facility and other locations across site continues to be collected and pumped to the mill for treatment. There, it is treated and tested to ensure the water quality meets or is better than regulatory requirements for release to the environment.

Cameco is committed to ensuring that water quality remains better than all requirements during care and maintenance. Other monitoring includes air and groundwater quality monitoring which continues across the site.

Plans for Rabbit Lake's care and maintenance were approved by federal and provincial agencies. During this care and maintenance state, Cameco has also maintained open communications with our northern partners through community engagement.



▲ Rabbit Lake's environment department continues to collect and lab test downstream water and sediment samples.

▼ Runoff water continues to be collected from around waste rock piles and treated before being released to the environment.



Rabbit Lake workforce

There are currently about 100 people employed at Rabbit Lake to maintain the site in care and maintenance. Approximately 50% are Residents of Saskatchewan's North (RSNs).

Regulatory Oversight

In April 2021, Cameco applied to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to begin the process to renew the Rabbit Lake licence. The current licences are valid until October 31, 2023, and a public hearing has been scheduled the beginning of June. The following points were outlined in Cameco's application:

- The site has mature management systems in place and would continue to operate within the established licensing basis
- The site would continue to monitor and report on the environment, radiation protection, and health and safety performance at the operations
- The site would maintain its financial assurances and review and update its preliminary decommissioning plans every 5 years

During the current licence term, Rabbit Lake successfully transitioned to a safe state of care and maintenance. Rabbit Lake was able to do this while consistently implementing management systems that ensure the health and safety of workers and the public, as well as protect the environment. Throughout this period:

- Workers remained 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 facilities met regulatory requirements and was safe.
- Environmental monitoring consistently showed that fish and plants from the area 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/rabbit-lake-relicensing