

First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun



Keno Hill closure planning update

This year, we were able to take several groups to tour the Keno Hill mine district to provide them with updates about care-and-maintenance as well, as closure status of the site. The month of June kept us busy with the move from the Lands Department to the new Na Cho Nyak Dun (NND) government building. It went smoothly with the help from several NND citizens and staff. A flight over the Keno Hill mine site took place with several NND citizens as well as one NND youth. This flight allowed us to pin point the locations of the closure issues.

Several NND citizens had the opportunity to tour the Faro and Brewery Creek Mine to discuss mining remediation. Field work associated with several closure planning studies was undertaken by NND citizens and staff. During 2009, a modest environmental monitoring program was started and involved water sampling at the site. A seep survey on the South McQuesten River was undertaken with Access Consulting Group. The goal of this study was to look for seepages between No Cash Creek and the South McQuesten River.

A 5 day acid rock drainage/ metal leaching course offered by Northwest Community College in Smithers was made available for NND citizens. One NND youth, two NND citizens and the mining liaison coordinator participated in this very informative course.

Regarding Keno 700, a study comprising a heritage assessment and an inspection was done in 2008 in order to reduce the exposure to hazards in the area. From the results of the study, a plan was approved by YTG, INAC and NND. The remediation work was undertaken during summer 2009.

During the 2009 season, securing the site safety by continuing to remediate the physical hazards previously identified is one of the key objectives. Now the focus is on Elsa.

In order to start the removal of the physical hazards within the east side of Elsa Village, a heritage assessment must be completed. The heritage assessment will be completed for the entire Village of Elsa with the anticipation of completing the remaining physical hazard reduction plan in the following year. The remaining physical hazards will be removed at a later date. An annual report will summarize the remedial work completed. YG will review the recorded data from the Heritage assessment, meetings and presentations will be held for the stakeholders to cover the overall plan.

Two representatives from each stakeholder group will be participating in a site tour of the entire town in spring 2010. Based on all stakeholders input, the heritage resources will be determined by YG. The physical reduction work will occur during summer 2010.

In the mean time, a meeting with NND Elders is planned for October 8, 2009 at 1:00pm at the multipurpose room in the new NND Government Building. We are anticipating that a community workshop will be held in late fall or winter to speak about the Closure Options components with NND and all stakeholders.

Thank You/ Mahsi Cho!

If you have any questions about the closure and reclamation at Keno Hill Property or if you have any knowledge you wish to share with us, please feel free to contact Josée Lemieux-Tremblay, Mining Liaison Coordinator for Na-Cho Nyak Dun First Nation, 996-2265 Extension 134, or miningliaison@ndfn.com and we will direct you to the appropriate program person. Submitted by Josée Lemieux-Tremblay



1. NND Elder Dave Moses sings a traditional song to Rob McIntyre of Alexco during the June 27, 2009 NND General Assembly in Mayo.



2. Dana Hager and Gerald Buyck on July 27, 2009 during the seep survey on the South McQuesten River near Elsa



3. On June 15, 2009, Chief and council joined us for a tour of the site to get an update about care-and-maintenance as well as the closure planning status of the site. On this picture, Bill Slater, Dan Cornett, Kael Hanak, Norma Germaine and Beverly Blanchard.



4. Keno 700 before the hazard reduction work.



5. Keno 700 after the phase 1 of the hazard reduction work.