

## Remediation of Keno 700

One of the many components to address, for the Keno Hill Reclamation Project planning with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun (NND), the Elsa Reclamation Development Company (ERDC), and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (DIAND), is the Physical Hazards reduction program. NND and the Yukon Territorial Government (YTG) have been involved for several years to compile a list of potential heritage sites and assess potentially hazardous infrastructures.

On August 22, a meeting was held between representatives from NND Lands and Heritage, ERDC, DIAND, YTG Heritage and the Keno Community Club. The intent was to discuss the objectives of every party regarding the triage activities to occur as part of the Keno Hill Mine Site Reclamation Plan. The old structures, shafts and many tunnels around old mines present serious hazards to the unwary and anyone should use extra caution when venturing around such sites. We went over the Keno Hill hazardous registry list and the proposed worked slated to happen first which include: Keno 700; the Comstock adit, and the porcupine shaft.



**Picture 1.** One of the buildings on the verge of collapse on the Keno 700 site and old rusted ore cart rails surrounded by piles of gray objects lying around all kind of scattered crude equipment used to work the mines.

ERDC stated that the issue of preservation of heritage artifacts in the Historic Keno Hill District is very important and they cooperated with NND to schedule a site inspection in order to ensure that everyone was consulted. ERDC also cooperated with the local community for the stabilization of the Wernecke House as any work on the broader site (Wernecke Camp) can only be undertaken in accordance with the Closure plan, once it is developed.

Following this meeting, on August 29, 2008, NND Heritage Manager Joella Hogan, Environmental Officer Beverly Genier and representants from ERDC, INAC, YTG and the Keno City Community Club have met to complete the inspection of the Keno 700 site. One of the goals of the inspection was to identify any items of heritage value and look at the hazardous risks from the hazardous registry list.



**Picture 2.** NND Heritage Manager Joella Hogan, Heritage Officer Beverly Genier and representants from the Keno Community Club during the August 29 site visit guided by Rob McIntyre on behalf of ERDC and Alexco.

Ratification has been reached on the heritage issues. Further testing of the Keno 700 tarpapers were performed to find out if it contains substantial amounts of asbestos. Yukon Occupational Health and safety officials made some recommendations as for the abatement procedures. No burning of the material will be allowed  
There is lots of snow at Keno 700 site and the weather may preclude that this work gets done this year, it will likely happen next spring.

A community meeting regarding the Keno Hill Reclamation Plan is going to be held in Mayo in December. More information will be posted regarding this event.  
Thanks to NND heritage Staff, ERDC and to the Alexco folks for the informative tour.



**Picture 3.** Remnants of a silver era; old ore carts, strips of rail and piles of wooden rail ties.

Thank you/ Mahsi Cho!

If you have any questions about the closure and reclamation plan 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, 996-2415, or [miningliaison@nndfn.com](mailto:miningliaison@nndfn.com) and we will direct you to the appropriate program person. Submitted by Josée Lemieux-Tremblay