

THE MATOUSH PROJECT

The Matoush project is a \$50-million uranium underground exploration program. It is a highly controlled and regulated operation that is safe for workers and the local population. The underground exploration program will create approximately 160 new jobs mostly within the Mistissini and Chibougamau communities and will have a positive impact on the local economy.

DECOMMISSIONING THE MATOUSH PROJECT

Decommissioning of an underground exploration program needs to be planned at the onset of the exploration phase. Strateco will take necessary measures to reduce its ecological footprint, thus making the decommissioning much easier.

These measures consist of the following:

- Surface ore stockpiles will only be used for potential ore finding during the development of the ramp.
- Any ore from the development in the ore zone will be kept underground in a muck bay for future use.
- The ramp rock waste will be managed so as to minimize environmental impacts.
- The overburden excavated during portal construction will be put back in place on top of the portal's dome to minimize the ground impact. The surplus will be stored for reclamation in the future.

If Strateco decides not to produce uranium from the Matoush site, the limited quantities of ore stocked on the surface will be returned underground.

CHEMICALS

All parts of the storage system (tanks and pipes) will be disassembled.

While Strateco has taken every measure to prevent contamination, we will undertake decontamination procedures and work consistent with the standards of the *ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF)* and the *ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs du Québec (MDDEP)* and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC).

DOMESTIC WASTE

Domestic waste which includes kitchen waste and waste from the workers quarter will be transported weekly to the Temiscamie base and then to Chibougamau for appropriate disposal. The workers equipment, like boots and work clothes will not leave the site.

SITE MANAGEMENT

At the end of the project, the ground will be leveled and stored organic soil will be leveled on the mineral ground to rehabilitate the site.

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DANGEROUS MATERIAL

At the end of excavation, explosives will be returned to the supplier.

No dangerous material will be left on the site after the cessation of activities.

RESTORATION TECHNIQUES

- FACILITIES

Facilities, equipment and machinery will be disassembled. Reusable material and equipment will be transported for recycling, further use or sale. Material that cannot be reused will be appropriately disposed of in an authorized waste site. Parts of the site road and the 12-km access road will be removed to restore the original draining conditions. Non-required trenches will be filled in. The road surfaces and verges will be scarified, leveled off and vegetation will be planted.

- ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Above-ground equipment and electrical infrastructure will be disassembled. Underground infrastructure will be left in place.

- SANITARY INSTALLATIONS AND PLUMBING

Above-ground plumbing, potable water and waste water pipelines will be disassembled. Underground pipes will be drained, blocked and will stay in place. The biodisc domestic wastewater treatment plant will be drained and disassembled.

- PETROLEUM INFRASTRUCTURE

Pipelines and fuel tanks will be professionally disassembled, and the site will be decontaminated as required by the MRNF, the MDDEP and the CNSC.

- MINE OPENING

Every mine opening, including the exploration ramp portal and ventilation raises, will be blocked as required by the regulation on mineral substances other than petroleum, gas and brining. A fence will be set around ventilation raises to show its location, and ground around the portal will be leveled off consistent with the surrounding topography.

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WASTE AND WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

Every slope of the sterile waste pad will be leveled off to fit the surrounding environment. Topsoil will be added. Mineral from the underground excavations will be returned underground. The basin will be dried and leveled off at mine closing. Water samples will be taken at several locations to confirm water quality.

SOIL SEEDING

Every surface that has been affected by mining exploration will be covered by vegetation to prevent erosion and restore the natural aspect of the site. Stored organic soil will be spread to promote vegetation.

STABILIZATION OF UNDERGROUND INSTALLATION STRUCTURE

Dimensions of openings will be kept at a minimum for excavation work.

Stabilization of openings will be secured by an appropriate installation of anchor ties for ground and opening conditions.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

An annual site check will be performed by a consultant to verify the site condition and to take water samples at predetermined control points to guarantee water quality. Verification will be made on a three-year schedule after the definitive closing of the site.

EMERGENCY PLANS AND SECURITY MEASURES

The address and phone number of the person in charge of the site will be sent to the appropriate organizations two months prior to the end of exploration work.

■ For more information, please contact Strateco at: avezina@bbhgm.com

Strateco believes that sustainable development means caring for the environment at every stage of exploration and production, actively involving the Cree community in the project, ensuring the safety and health of our workers and providing safe and clean energy for the future.