

THE MATOUSH PROJECT

In 2006, Strateco set up the Matoush uranium project, located in the Otish Mountains at about 275 km north of Chibougamau and 210 km northeast of Mistissini. It is now considered as one of the highest-grade uranium projects in the world. Strateco aspires to become the first company in Quebec and the first so-called junior company in Canada, during the present cycle, to advance a uranium exploration project involving underground exploration operations.



TRANSPORT OF NUCLEAR SUBSTANCES

Uranium in the form of yellowcake has been trucked from Saskatchewan mines to Ontario and Quebec (Port of Montreal) for over 60 years (uranium transportation began in the early 1950s). Over the course of those years, no major incident has ever been recorded and there has been no impact on the environment or local communities. This success is mainly attributable to Canadian experience as well as regulations for the transport of nuclear substances, which contribute to the protection of people, goods and the environment.

Did you know?

- Many millions consignments containing radioactive material are routinely transported worldwide annually on public roads, railways and ships and more than a million are transported safely in Canada.
- There has never been a transportation accident leading to serious radiological consequences.
- The radiological risk of yellowcake is very low because of the low toxicity of the powder.

WHAT IS YELLOWCAKE?

The final product of uranium mining is a slightly radioactive uranium concentrate called "Yellowcake". Yellowcake is classified as a dangerous good; however, the risk associated with its transport is very low due to its low radioactivity.

SAFETY MEASURES

Since 1961, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has continually updated its *Regulations for the safe transport of radioactive material* in order to provide a regulatory framework in common with the various national authorities around the world.

In Canada, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and Transport Canada develop and apply the regulations governing the transport of radioactive material. Canadian regulations can essentially be found in the *Regulations for the safe transport of radioactive material* and the *Packaging and Transport of Nuclear Substances Regulations*.

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

PACKAGING

Canadian regulations are based on the fundamental principle whereby every radioactive material must be adequately packaged in order to protect it under normal transportation conditions as well as in the event of an accident. Furthermore, since safety depends primarily on the container in which the radioactive material is packed, Canadian regulations have very high performance standards to guarantee the quality of those containers.

In addition to determining the appropriate packaging type for each nuclear substance, Canadian regulations define and require the inclusion of labels and plates on the containers and means of transport to indicate the type of dangerous good being transported and the related danger.

EMERGENCY PLAN

Every person who transports radioactive material must have in his or her possession a consignment document containing all the information on the consignor, the material being transported and the Emergency Response Assistance Plan (ERAP) in case of an accident. The ERAP is mandatory for yellowcake transportation and must be approved by Transport Canada.

In case of an accident leading to a yellowcake spill, the ERAP stipulates that the producer must send an emergency team to recover the yellowcake and clean up the surroundings to prevent contamination.

TRAINING

Anyone who handles, request transport of or transports dangerous goods must be adequately trained and hold a training certificate. This ensures that all those involved in any way in the transportation of nuclear substances have the knowledge and skill required to ensure a high level of safety.

APPLICATION OF THE REGULATIONS

Transport Canada inspectors make sure that the rules for transporting and packaging radioactive material are applied and respected. They have the authority to issue orders to stop any practice that might threaten public safety.

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Links

Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/clear-tofc-211.htm>

Packaging and Transport of Nuclear Substances Regulations

<http://www.canlii.org/en/ca/laws/regu/sor-2000-208/latest/sor-2000-208.html>

Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (2005 Edition) – IAEA

http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/Pub1225_web.pdf

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission - Packaging and Transport of Nuclear Substances

<http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/about/regulated/packaging/index.cfm>

Transport Canada – Transportation of Dangerous Goods

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/safety-menu.htm>