

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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY OF STRATECO WORKERS

Although many people from Chibougamau and Mistissini see in a positive light the underground exploration program for its job creation and impact on the local economy, several have expressed concerns about exposure to uranium. Here are the facts.

- Uranium is naturally abundant in the earth's crust, either in rocks, soil, rivers, and oceans. It is actually more abundant than silver or gold.
- The health and safety of the workers is the priority at each step leading to uranium production.
- The industry is regulated by international, national and provincial standards that control every type of risk, for both workers and the general public.
- In addition to the nuclear sector, all the other provincial laws and regulations related to health and safety of workers are applicable.
- The Canadian nuclear regulations stipulate rigorous measures to ensure that at every step leading from exploration to exploitation of a uranium mine the work places are highly secure.
- Several licenses are required and delivered by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. All licenses include requirements regarding the health and safety of workers.

Workers, contractors and visitors are subjected to health and safety measures and have to be adequately and continuously trained on how to prevent ionizing radiation exposure.

WHAT STRATECO CAN DO TO ENSURE A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT?

Strateco, by its proactive management, has put in place different health and safety programs specific to uranium. Here is a short description of some of them:

The **Radiation Protection Program** covers elements specific to the exposure to ionizing radiation related to uranium, which includes; Radiation Protection training, health effects related to the exposure to ionizing radiation, exposure monitoring, contamination monitoring, monitoring equipments, work permits, intervention plan in case of an emergency measure, etc.

A **Quality Assurance Program** that will help the organization to identify and solve problems, establish prevention tools and ensure a continuous improvement process for all the programs and procedures throughout the operations.

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A **Safety Program** related to executed tasks, including; supervision formula, the work card and the verification and daily inspection sheets, detailed work procedures for work in closed space, work in height, welding and cutting, lockout and putting in zero energy procedures during maintenance or repairs of equipment or material, tools, mobile equipments, etc.

For each program and procedure a **Training Program** was elaborated and put in place in order to ensure that the worker receives the necessary training and information to accomplish his tasks in a secure manner.

All these programs will be applicable only for the expected underground exploration phase on the Matoush project. The majority of the programs are being elaborated and will be completed shortly. However, a part of the Radiation Protection Program is already in place for our workers and contractors since the beginning of exploration in 2006.

■ 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 employees and providing safe and clean energy for the future.