

Tech Cominco Ltd. and MSRM M-KMA Joint Reclamation Project

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<http://www.trcr.bc.ca/awards-2005.htm>

The Citation for outstanding achievement for reclamation at a Metal Mine was awarded to **Teck Cominco Limited and the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management for the Muskwa Kechika Joint Project.**

The Muskwa Kechika Joint Project involved the further reclamation of the Churchill Copper Mine and the Wokkash Corridor Access Route.

The Churchill Copper Mine is located in the very remote Muskwa Ranges of the Northern Rocky Mountains, approximately 270 kilometers east of Dease Lake and 540 kilometers northeast of Prince George. The minesite now falls within the Muskwa Kechika Management Area. The Churchill Copper Mine operated in the 60's and intermittently in the 70's and was later acquired by TeckCominco through the purchase of another company. The mine included a millsite and several tailings pond located on the banks of the Racing River.

Previously, Teck Cominco had reclaimed the mine to the standards of the day and in the late 1980's, their bond was returned and the permit closed. The Government retained responsibility for the Wokkash Corridor Access road as it was left in place to facilitate future development in the area. However, over time the Racing River continued to erode the tailings, re-distributing garbage buried within them. The mine openings, road and bridges became a safety hazard. The site did not meet the standards of this special management area.

After preliminary discussions with government, Teck Cominco Limited approached the Muskwa Kechika Advisory Board with an unsolicited proposal to jointly finance the reclamation work. Since the BC government had responsibility for the road, a 50/50 cost sharing agreement was established, with Teck Cominco conducting the work under contract to the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. Several other Provincial and Federal agencies also played an important role in the project by providing regulatory approvals.

The program, conducted over 57 days during the summer of 2004, included relocating the Racing River landfill to the mill building area, moving most of the remaining tailings from the North Tailings Pond to above the river flood plain, and covering, seeding and fertilizing of the mill site and mine boneyard areas. The approach to the grizzly ore dump was excavated and four adits were in-filled for public safety. Bridges were dismantled and piers removed at the Racing River, Wokkash Creek and MacDonald Creek crossings. All of the steel was buried and the approaches were recontoured and seeded. The Wokkash Area Access road was also narrowed in several locations to allow access for ATV's only, consistent with the requirements of the management area.

The Muskwa Kechika Joint Project is a testament to the great things that can happen when people work together. This innovative partnership led to significant improvements to the area. Many people in the agencies involved contributed to the success of the project. A special mention was made for the hard work and stalwart efforts of Garry Davies. Teck Cominco, has demonstrated leadership in the mining industry and exemplary stewardship through their reclamation efforts.



Garry Davies accepts the citation for Metal Mine Reclamation on behalf of Teck Cominco Ltd and the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management