BC Crown Contaminated Sites Program
Site Summary

Cork– Province

Location: 49° 54' 29" N, 117° 04' 36" W

Status: Long-term Monitoring & Maintenance

The former Cork-Province mine produced zinc, cadmium, gold, and silver from 1900 to 1966, which left a mass of mine tailings near Keen Creek, a secondary potable water source for the nearby town of Kaslo, BC, north of Nelson. The tailings impoundment was at risk of failing and endangering Keen Creek. In 2008 and 2009, the tailings were moved to a new location upland and away from the creek. The new and former tailings impoundments were covered with about a metre of soil and the entire site was replanted.

Long-term monitoring and maintenance following the work continues to show that the remedial program has removed the risk of tailings release. Field observations showed some disturbance of the tailings impoundment by people using the general area (e.g. road work, all terrain vehicles). To address this, repairs were made and new signage was installed in the fall of 2017, and additional signage and fencing was installed in 2018. Due to continued positive monitoring results, the monitoring frequency is slowly being reduced.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact the Crown Contaminated Sites Program by emailing contaminated.sites@gov.bc.ca or visit our website https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/site-remediation/contaminated-sites/crown-contaminated-sites-program.

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