



BC Crown Contaminated Sites Program Site Summary



French

Location: 49° 21' 03" N, 120° 04' 25" W

Status: Site Investigation and Risk Assessment

This former French Mine located in the Similkameen River Valley began production in 1950 and produced gold, silver and copper. Ore was first treated at a stamp-mill in Hedley, before the French Mine mill was constructed in 1957 at a location south of Hedley. Mining operations were suspended in 1961, with limited resumption in 1982 and 1983. The mill site consists of a standing wooden ore bin and chute, the cement foundation of the former mill, limited below ground infrastructure, and a small tailings deposit.

Shallow soil sampling at the site was conducted in 2019 to follow up on a previous limited sampling program. Elevated concentrations of arsenic were identified in the tailings, as well as more widespread distribution of arsenic and other metals in the larger area between the former old Hedley Stamp Mill and the Candorado heap leach facility. This may be from dust deposition associated with the Hedley Stamp Mill or the French Mine

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>.