



BC Crown Contaminated Sites Program Site Summary



Howard

Location: 49°15' 46" N, 117° 12' 31" W

Status: Long-term Monitoring & Maintenance

The former Howard mine is located about 30 km south of Nelson, BC, and operated between 1937 and 1938. Investigations identified a former ore processing mill and acidic mine wastes within and adjacent to the Salmo River. To address the potential human health and environment risks associated with the mine wastes, a remediation plan was developed and executed in 2014.

Remediation work consisted of excavating and consolidating approximately 6,000 m³ of mine wastes into an upland regulatory- approved landfill within the former footprint of the mine milling operations. The landfill was covered with an engineered liner and one metre of clean soil and shaped to prevent erosion and surface water ponding. The excavated areas were backfilled with clean soil and protected with an engineered erosion barrier, which included fish habitat enhancement features.

A long-term monitoring and maintenance program was initiated in 2015 and includes a comprehensive water sampling program, vegetation monitoring, and geotechnical and environmental inspections of all engineering features. Annual monitoring is ongoing to ensure the remedial works continue to operate as intended and to observe long-term trends and seasonal variations in groundwater, surface water and porewater.

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>.