



BC Crown Contaminated Sites Program Site Summary



Pilot Bay

Location: 49° 38' 38" N, 116° 53' 00" W

Status: Site Investigation and Risk Assessment

The former Pilot Bay smelter operated on the eastern shore of Kootenay Lake, BC, near the end of the 19th century. Refining and concentrating operations began in 1895, when 52,000 tons of ore mined from the nearby Bluebell Mine and 2,500 tons from other local mining operations were transported to the site for processing. The refining infrastructure was shut down in 1896 due to difficulties processing ore, with the concentrator operated intermittently until 1906. The site remained dormant for decades and the infrastructure was eventually dismantled and left to deteriorate. By 1952, approximately 32,000

tons of silver, lead and zinc rich ore remained at the site. Most of the former milling and smelting buildings were located upland from the foreshore on private lands, while mine wastes generated from site operations were deposited along the foreshore and into Kootenay Lake (primarily Crown land).

The Province initiated a comprehensive review of the site conditions in 2016 and developed a plan to complete additional investigations to identify the extent of contamination. In 2016 and 2017, a modified Stage I preliminary site investigation and Stage II detailed site investigation were conducted on the Crown portion of the foreshore area of the site, targeting human health and ecological risks. The Province conducted an extensive groundwater sampling program in 2019 to evaluate surface water, porewater and groundwater quality along the foreshore including a supplementary assessment of the fish habitat in Kootenay Lake. Results of these investigations are currently under review and will inform development of future remedial options.

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>.