

## **ROBERTS BAY AND IDA BAY PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

The Government of Canada has implemented the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP) to clean up federally owned contaminated sites which pose a risk to human health and/or the environment. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) has applied, and received funding approval, for the investigation and remediation of the abandoned Roberts Bay Silver Mine and Ida Bay Silver Deposit in Nunavut.

The Roberts Mining Company first staked the area in 1964 and the silver deposit was discovered in 1965. The following year gold and silver deposits were staked at IDA Bay. Exploration continued in the area from 1967 until 1972 by the Hope Bay Mining Company (later called Hope Bay Mines Limited).

Mining equipment was mobilized by Hope Bay Mines Ltd. in 1973. Declines were constructed at both Ida Bay and Roberts Bay and mining was initiated. Milling was done at Roberts Bay.

In 1974 Hope Bay Mines entered a joint venture with Van silver Explorations and Recko Explorations. The Roberts Bay Mine was upgraded and a small (50-75 tons/day) mill constructed. The equipment had recovered 74,500 ounces of silver when operations ceased in 1975.

Exploration continued in the 1980's and 1990's. In 1997 the Roberts Mining Lease was surrendered. The area was re-staked as the ORO5 claim in 1998.

### **2. SITE LOCATION/ACCESS**

The Roberts Bay Silver Mine is located on crown land, approximately 115 km southwest of the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay. Its latitude and longitude are 68° 10' 45" N and 106° 33' 29" W, respectively. The Ida Bay Silver Deposit is located approximately 7 km north of the Roberts Bay Silver Mine, along the shore of Melville Sound. Both of these sites are within the ORO claim region.

Both the Roberts Bay and Ida Bay sites are composed of exposed basalt ridges interspersed with low-lying marshes underlain with glacial deposits. A gravel road links Roberts Lake to the mine site.

Access to the two sites is by rotary wing aircraft, fixed wing aircraft equipped with floats, or by barge via the Hope Bay Barge Landing Site (HBBLs).

### **3. PROJECT ACTIVITIES & SCHEDULE**

All site assessment activities required to develop a plan for the remediation of Roberts Bay and Ida Bay mine sites have been completed. The assessment studies included the following:

- SENES Consultants Limited, 2004 - Human Health Screening Level Risk Assessment;
- Public Works and Government Services Canada (Environmental Services) and Rescan Environmental Services, 2004 - Phase I/II Environmental Site Assessment Roberts Bay Silver Mine and Ida Bay Silver Deposit Nunavut;

- AMEC Earth & Environmental, 2005 (DRAFT) - Roberts Bay and Ida Bay Abandoned Mine Sites, Geochemical Assessment in support of Site Remediation;
- Earth Tech Canada Inc., 2006 – Roberts Bay and Ida Bay Abandoned Mine Sites, Waste Audit;
- Earth Tech Canada Inc., 2006 – Roberts Bay and Ida Bay Abandoned Mine Sites, Environmental Site Assessment;
- Earth Tech Canada Inc., 2006 – Roberts Bay and Ida Bay Abandoned Mine Sites, Geotechnical and Geophysical Assessment; and
- UMA Engineering Ltd., 2006 – Roberts Bay and Ida Bay Deposit, Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment.

Based on the results of these assessment studies a comprehensive Remediation Action Plan (RAP) was developed in 2006, for the clean-up of Roberts Bay and Ida Bay sites. Following the development of the RAP, community consultations were held in Cambridge Bay with the members of the community and representatives of Hunters and Trappers Organization, Kitikmeot Inuit Association and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Press, and teacher and student's representatives of Kiilinik High School, Cambridge Bay.

This project is currently going through the regulatory phase, following which there will be a bidding process and the award of the contract for the implementation of the RAP.

The two years implementation of the RAP is planned to begin in 2007, with mobilization to site during the summer of 2007 and demobilization from site towards the end of the summer of 2009.

Site remediation activities will include:

- Mobilization of equipment, materials and personnel to site. For logistics reasons, this will take place in two stages: mobilization to an existing barge station - Hope Bay Barge Landing Site (HBLS) during the summer of 2007 and mobilization to Roberts Bay and Ida Bay sites by January, 2008.
- Enhancement of site access routes – From HBLS to Roberts Bay and Roberts Bay to Ida Bay
- Camp set-up and operation
- Hazardous material removal, handling and transportation
- Temporary storage on site for hazardous materials, equipment and fuels
- Building and structure demolition
- Debris consolidation and disposal
- Excavation and relocation or removal of contaminated soil
- Capping waste rock and tailings
- Quarrying of gravel and overburden materials
- Landfill construction
- Site grading
- Demobilization of equipment, materials/wastes and personnel. Again for logistics reasons, this will take place in two stages: demobilization to HBLS during the winter of 2009 and transportation by barge from HBLS to South during the summer of 2009.
- Site monitoring (post-remediation)

Additional details on the above remediation activities are available in the RAP document included with this application.

The site remediation activities will be followed by a long-term post-remediation monitoring starting from 2009. Annual site monitoring activities are planned for the first five years after remediation following which an intermittent monitoring on “as and when required” basis will be performed. Long-term site monitoring will only occur at Roberts Bay site as no waste or contamination requiring post-remediation monitoring will be left at Ida Bay site.

#### **4. SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE PROJECT**

As much as possible, the project will adopt solutions tailored to the northern environment and its inhabitants, by using local knowledge and including the unique needs of northerners and their environments in the remediation work plan.

Community stakeholders and local Inuit organizations will be advised of the project plans prior to going on site. A Community consultation meeting will be held in Cambridge Bay prior to the commencement of site remediation activities to discuss employment and sub-contracting opportunities. Community consultations will continue throughout the duration of the project to ensure that the community is informed about the activities, results and plans regarding the site.

As well, meetings to update the Federal and Territorial regulatory bodies are being planned. Resources for on-going communications have been budgeted for.