



Orano Canada to Temporarily Suspend Production at McClean Lake Uranium Mill

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Orano Canada Inc. will wind down production at its McClean Lake uranium mill over the coming weeks to temporarily suspend production at the mill. The move will be taken in tandem with the suspension of production at the Cigar Lake uranium mine.

While both operations have made substantial efforts to protect employees and contractors from the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, Saskatchewan has been experiencing an increase in the number of positive cases.

McClean Lake has managed a small number of positive cases on site this fall with the advice of provincial health authorities. All of the infections originated offsite and were discovered once the person came to the mill. Through coordination with northern leaders, Orano has made adjustments as necessary to work schedules to respond to localized COVID outbreaks in northern communities.

“While it has been at times challenging to ensure that we have the right people in the right place at the right time, our employees have been extremely flexible and we thank them for that,” said Orano Canada Inc. President and CEO Jim Corman. “I understand that this announcement will be difficult for many of our employees and I want them to know that I appreciate their commitment to our operation, and that we will do our best to minimize the disruption.”

Orano Canada and its partners in the McClean Lake joint venture, in conjunction with Cameco’s Cigar Lake mine operation, will work to determine the restart date and conditions.

Approximately 160 employees are at the McClean Lake mill at one time, following a two weeks in, two weeks out schedule. Once production is temporarily suspended, the number of employees onsite will be substantially reduced.

More About

Headquartered in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Orano Canada Inc. is a leading producer of uranium, accounting for the processing of 18 million pounds produced in Canada in 2019. Orano Canada has been exploring for uranium, mining and producing uranium concentrate in Canada for more than 55 years. Orano Canada is the operator of the McClean Lake uranium mill and a major partner in the Cigar Lake, McArthur River and Key Lake operations. The company employs over 450 people in Saskatchewan, including about 320 at the McClean Lake operation where over 46% of employees are self-declared Indigenous. As a sustainable uranium producer, Orano Canada is committed to safety, environmental protection and contributing to the prosperity and well-being of neighbouring communities.

Orano Canada Inc. is a subsidiary of the multinational Orano group offering products and services with high added value throughout the entire nuclear fuel cycle, from raw materials to waste treatment. Its activities, from mining to dismantling, as well as in conversion, enrichment, recycling, logistics and engineering, contribute to the production of low carbon electricity. Orano and its 16,000 employees bring to bear their expertise and their mastery of cutting-edge technology, as well as their permanent search for innovation and unwavering dedication to safety, to serve their customers worldwide.

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