

Cigar Lake Operations



Cigar Lake is the world's highest grade uranium mine and is located in northern Saskatchewan.

Since commissioning in 2014, the site has produced a total of 155 million pounds (100% basis). Commercial operation began in May 2015. As the operator, Cameco developed an innovative jet-boring technique specifically for mining this deposit. Cigar Lake's ore is processed 70 km northeast, at the McClean Lake mill, operated by Orano. Cameco announced in May 2022 that it increased its ownership stake in Cigar Lake.



cigar lake operation facts

Location

- 660 km north of Saskatoon

Ownership

- A joint venture of Cameco (54.547%), Orano Canada Inc. (40.453%), and TEPCO Resources (5%)
- Operator: Cameco

Workforce

- In 2024, Cigar Lake employed 1,231 people, including contractors
- Forty-five per cent were Residents of Saskatchewan's North

History

- Deposit discovered in 1981
- Construction period 2005-2013
- First ore slurry shipped to McClean Lake on March 13, 2014
- First Cigar Lake uranium oxide packaged in October 2014
- Commercial production declared May 1, 2015
- Reached full production of 18 million pounds in 2017



Safety as a Core Value

Cigar Lake's risk-based approach and strong safety culture seeks to introduce safety controls before incidents occur. The operation's solid safety record was recognized by the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum with the John T. Ryan Regional Metal Trophy for the Prairies and Territories award for four consecutive years, 2017 to 2020.



Protecting the environment

Environmental monitoring programs are in place at the Cigar Lake operation to help protect the surrounding environment. Samples of water, air, soil, plants and fish are collected from numerous locations around the site and tested to confirm that environmental protection systems are effective.

Monitoring results are submitted to federal and provincial regulatory authorities for review. Cameco also supports independent regional monitoring downstream of its Saskatchewan operations to ensure there are no cumulative effects on the regional watershed. The extensive monitoring undertaken at Cigar Lake, and areas downstream, have confirmed the environment remains protected.



Regulatory oversight

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission has licensed Cigar Lake to operate through June 2031. Cameco also operates Cigar Lake in accordance with the conditions outlined in the Approval to Operate Pollutant Control Facilities issued by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment.

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