

April 2021

JWG Monthly Update

In April, the following topics were discussed:

- Transportation Risk Assessment, accidents and malfunctions
- Environmental Assessment (EA) scoping and pathways analysis
- Caribou mitigation pilot program

Clearwater River Exiting Patterson Lake

NexGen Energy is pleased to present this update to communities on the discussions that took place as part of the April 2021 Joint Working Groups.

WHAT WE DISCUSSED

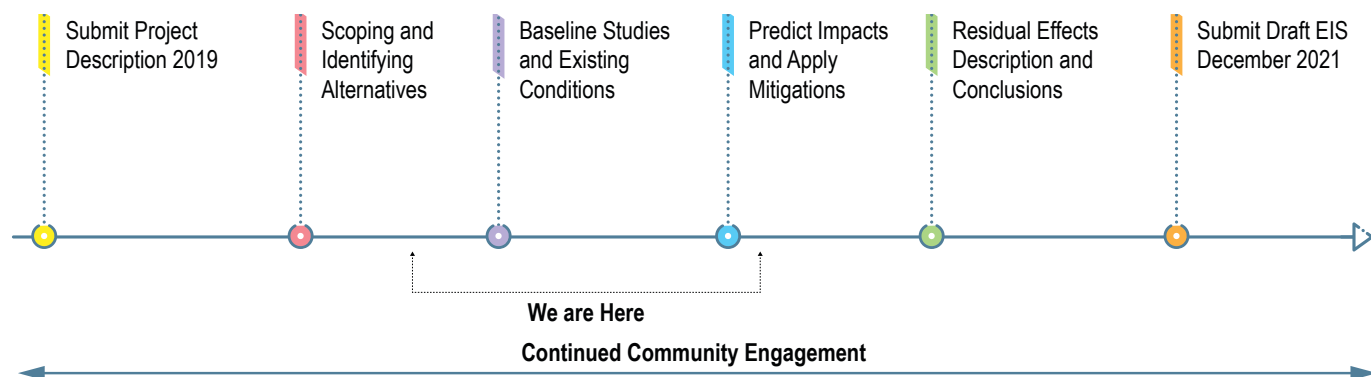
In the April 2021 Joint Working Group (JWG) meetings, we discussed three key topics:

- The Transportation Risk Assessment and the evaluation of accidents and malfunctions to assess the potential environmental consequences.
- Environmental Assessment (EA) methodology with a focus on scoping, pathways analysis, and how the Rook I Project (Project) could positively or negatively affect community well-being.
- The caribou mitigation and offsetting plan and the pilot program to reclaim linear disturbances. Input from communities will strengthen these projects.



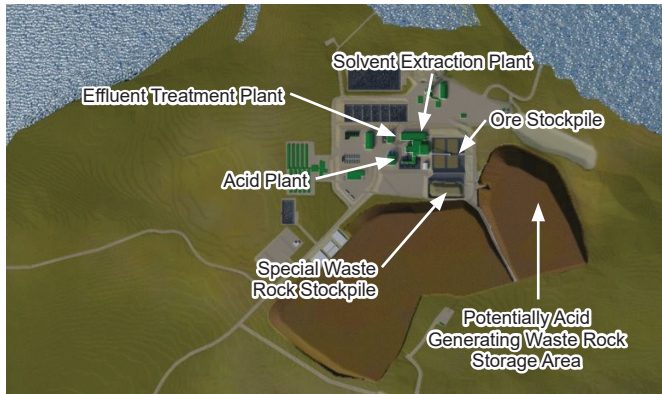
Aerial View of Patterson Lake area near Rook I Project Site

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process



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Meeting Summary



Proposed Rook I Project Site

Transportation Risk Assessment

- The Transportation Risk Assessment will focus on Highways 955 and 155 from the Rook I Project site to Green Lake.
- Early engagement with communities identified a concern for increased traffic and the consequences of traffic accidents.
- The Transportation Risk Assessment will evaluate the risks related to changes in traffic patterns and assess the environmental consequences that may occur due to traffic-related accidents, including how these accidents may affect communities along the transportation corridor.
- Five locations have been identified where spill assessments will be evaluated (see map).

Accidents and Malfunctions Study

- This study assesses the 'what if' for events that are outside of what is expected.
- Considers a wide range of Project activities and scenarios to understand 'what might happen should an accident occur'.
- For those events that 'might happen', those that pose a relatively high risk are evaluated further to determine the environmental consequence.
- Twenty-one different Project activities were considered with multiple scenarios considered for each activity. In total, 90 individual scenarios were identified for further assessment.

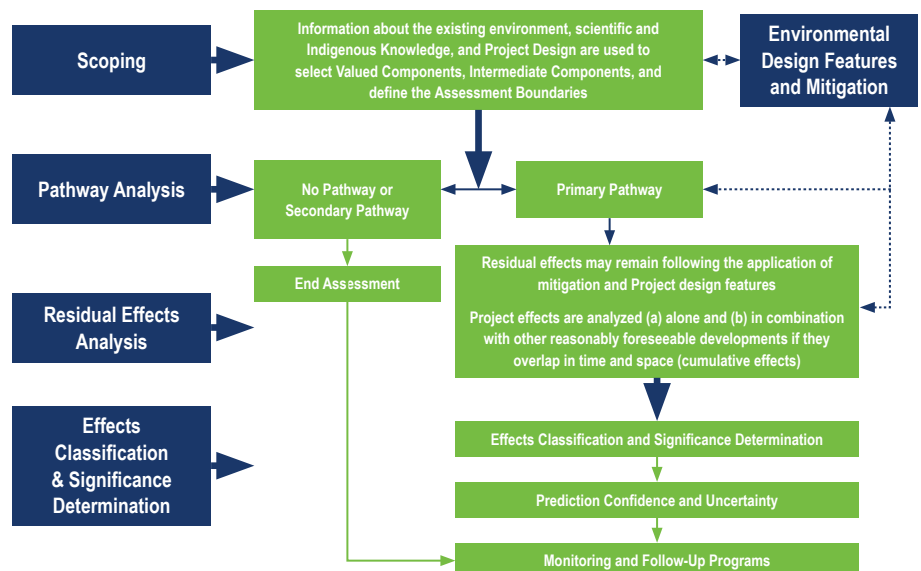


Access to the Rook I Project Site via Highways 155 and 955

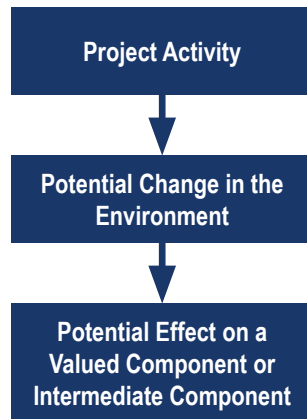
Environmental Assessment Process

- The steps of an EA are listed on the left of the figure and include scoping, pathways analysis, residual effects analysis and effects classification, and the determination of significance. Information about mitigations and Project environmental design features are used throughout the EA process.
- The pathways analysis step was discussed in detail during the April meeting with a focus on community well-being.
- Both Project effects and cumulative effects will be assessed.

Environmental Assessment Process Flowchart



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Pathways Analysis

- A pathways analysis is an important step in the EA process because it focuses the EA on the key interactions between the Project and the environment after the incorporation of mitigation and environmental design features.
- Pathways are classified into three categories:
 - **Primary pathway:** where there is a likely environmental change that could cause greater-than-negligible effects on a valued component (VC) or intermediate component.
 - **Secondary pathway:** where the potential effect is measurable, but the effect is negligible.
 - **No pathway:** where the potential effect can be avoided through mitigation or Project design.
- Primary pathways are the focus of the EA. These primary pathways are carried forward in the EA for a detailed analysis of residual effects.

Community Well-being

- Community Well-being will be a VC in the EA.
- Community Well-being will be defined based on input from the community, information from other projects, and literature.
- NexGen would like to understand the factors that contribute positively and negatively to Community Well-being, including historical and current influences.
- To better understand Community Well-being in each community, NexGen has conducted key person interviews with community members, held community information sessions and a youth workshop, and JWG meetings.



Promoting Active Living



Staff at the Rook I Project Site

Pathways Analysis Example: Community Well-being

The Project could positively and negatively affect Community Well-being through several pathways including:

- Training, education, and employment may increase disposable incomes, which could have both positive and negative effects on communities.
- The presence of the Project may affect how community members participate in land and resource use opportunities.
- Traffic from the Project may affect Community Well-being.

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Caribou in the Environmental Assessment

- The potential effects of the Project on caribou and caribou habitat will be evaluated in the EA.
- Because the boreal population of woodland caribou is listed as threatened under the federal *Species at Risk Act*, a Caribou Mitigation and Offsetting Plan (Plan) is required for the Project.
- NexGen would like to collaborate with local communities to develop the Plan, with the objective to create a net benefit or no net loss to caribou and caribou habitat.

Linear Feature Reclamation & Mitigation Trial

- NexGen is undertaking a study to identify practical ways to improve caribou habitat, with a focus on linear features.
- Reclaiming or restoring linear features may reduce predation on caribou by wolves or other predators.
- The trial will focus on non-Project related disturbances and use combinations of seeding/planting, coarse woody debris, tree tipping, fencing, and mounding.



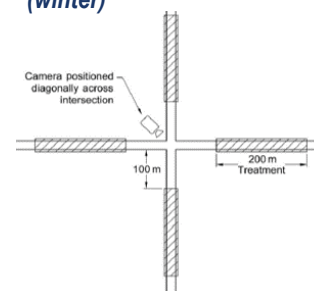
Linear disturbance (summer)



Evidence of natural deadfall (winter)



Boreal Forest at Rook I Project Site



WHAT WE HEARD FROM THE JOINT WORKING GROUPS

- Learning more about health and safety issues related to the uranium industry is of interest to the communities.
- Communities are concerned about highway conditions from Green Lake to the Rook I Project site. Increased traffic volume and reduced visibility due to blowing dust or snow were discussed.
- An emergency response plan, including the need for training, will be important in the event of a spill or accident.
- Information about the Project should be shared with the broader community.
- The potential positive and negative socio-economic impacts of the Project are of high interest. The positive educational and economic effects on communities should be sustainable beyond the life of the Project.
- Communities have strong, dynamic cultures. Cultural sensitivity training will be important for Project employees. For example, employment schedules should consider the timing of seasonal activities such as hunting.
- The Transportation Risk Assessment should consider including muskeg areas because they may have connections to the river systems and provide fish habitat.

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

- How would you best like to be kept up to date on the Project?
- What are the most important things you would like us to know about your community and the potential Project effects (both positive and negative)?
- When we describe the potential effects of the Project, what type of information would be most useful to help you understand the effects?
- What specific topics are important to you?

Please contact us by any of the means below if you wish to ask questions or discuss anything – we look forward to hearing from you!