

NORTHERN TRANSPORTATION ROUTE

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories | Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens

Sahtu Sites

An Environmental Cleanup Initiative



Northern Transportation Route site cleanup

The Northern Transportation Route (NTR) initiative is a federal environmental cleanup project to remove legacy uranium-ore spillage sites in the Northwest Territories (NWT) and northern Alberta (AB).

These sites contain small quantities of uranium-impacted soils resulting from spillage during historic transportation of uranium ore at certain points along the 2,000 kilometre route of waterways and portages between Port Radium, NWT and Fort McMurray, AB.

The spilt uranium ore contains naturally occurring low-level radiation in concentrations that do not pose a risk to people or the environment.

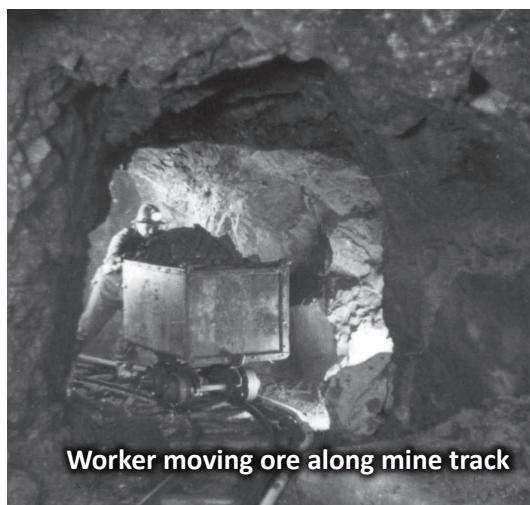
History of the NTR

In the 1930s, Eldorado Gold Mines Ltd. established a mine in Port Radium, NWT and a refining facility in Port Hope, Ontario. From the 1930s to the 1960s, uranium ore was shipped along the NTR by barge and loaded onto rail cars in Fort McMurray, AB.

Investigations in the 1990s between the Fort McMurray railhead and Port Radium mine site identified sites where uranium ore was spilled during historic transport. Several spill locations were cleaned up through 2009 and CNL is currently planning next steps to clean up the remaining sites and transport the material for disposal at licensed facilities in Alberta.



Transportation of uranium ore



Worker moving ore along mine track



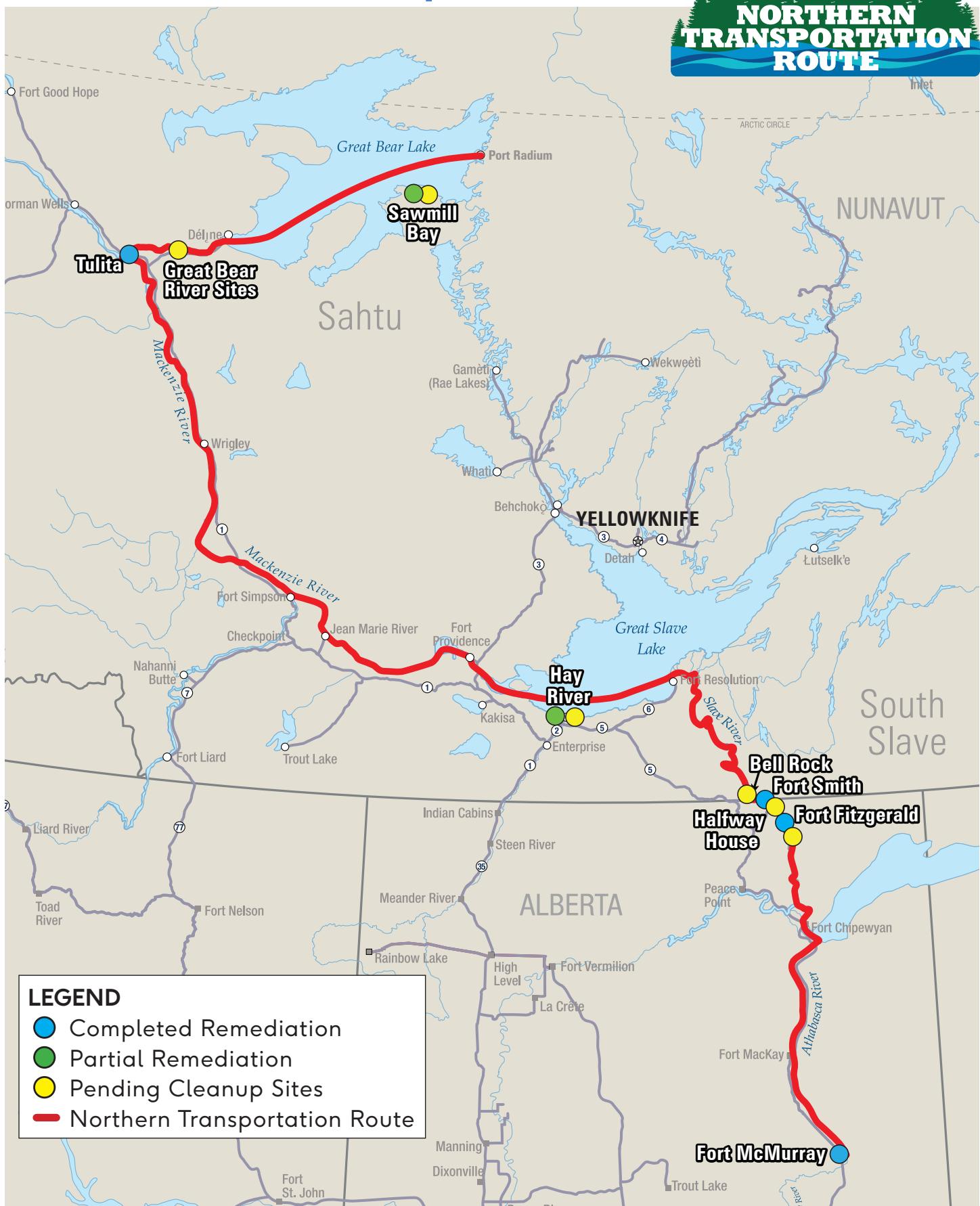
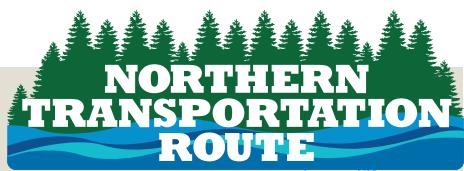
Uranium ore sacks



Tugboats transporting uranium ore

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories is implementing the Northern Transportation Route initiative on behalf of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, a federal Crown corporation.

NTR Cleanup Sites



Engaging for learning and collaboration

The NTR project focuses on early engagement with each community to collaborate on meeting mutual cleanup needs with appropriate plans.

Before planning begins, CNL Indigenous Relations staff and the NTR project team engage at the leadership and staff levels to gather input and get an understanding of the community, culture, Aboriginal Rights and specific community priorities and goals.

CNL will then seek guidance on relationship building, community needs and opportunities to engage appropriately on the project.

A community-specific agreement and engagement strategy can be developed to outline preferred approaches and timelines for sharing information.

Support and tools may include funding toward a community liaison, creation of brochures, newsletters and social media campaigns or project events, community meetings, open houses, celebrations or commemorations.

As the project progresses, there is an opportunity to generate local economic benefit, skills development, training, and additional capacity building.

Working closely with each community, CNL will clean up and restore the sites, leaving a positive project legacy for all.



A phased approach to cleanup

The NTR project is taking place in three phases, based on geographic region. Each work site is secured, with all standard construction safety and environmental protection measures in place during cleanup. Once all contaminated material has been removed, sites are backfilled with clean fill, graded and restored and all equipment is cleaned before leaving the site.

Phase 1

~800 m³

Temporary Storage Areas

Fort Fitzgerald, AB
Fort Smith, NWT

COMPLETE 2021

Phase 2

~10,000 m³

Northern Alberta

Halfway House
Fort Fitzgerald

Southeastern NWT

Bell Rock
Hay River Dene Reserve

Phase 3

~900 m³

Sahtu Region, NWT

Sawmill Bay
Great Bear River

For more information contact CNL

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Published November 2025

UNRESTRICTED



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