

7.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

TANCO implemented a public engagement program during preparation of this Notice of Alteration for the Bernic Lake Facility. The program involved identifying potential stakeholders and conducting activities to ensure that the public was meaningfully consulted. This included an open house held in Lac du Bonnet on 28 April 2010, as suggested by Manitoba Conservation.

This report documents:

- TANCO's public engagement objectives;
- the activities undertaken by TANCO in order to meaningfully engage the public (including regulatory agencies);
- public comments received to date;
- how public comments have been or will be considered by the Company in project planning and/or operation of the mine; and
- plans the Company has for ongoing communication with the surrounding communities.

7.1 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of TANCO's public involvement program were to:

- ensure that interested persons or organizations are provided with current information about the facility and are aware of the NOA;
- request public comments throughout the process in order to identify local and regional concerns and ideas; and
- provide the Company with opportunities for further relationship building with neighbouring communities and individuals.

7.2 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

7.2.1 *STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION*

A contact list was developed so that TANCO would be able to communicate on an individual basis with those most likely to express interest in the NOA. The contact list included First Nation communities in Manitoba within 100 km of the facility (Sagkeeng First Nation, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Hollow Water First Nation, and Black River First Nation), as well as town/municipal councils and organizations in the Eastman Region, elected officials, business owners, resource users, economic development

agencies, and environmental organizations. Numerous provincial and federal government agencies were also included. A copy of the contact list is provided in Appendix J.

7.2.2 *MAIL-OUT*

Notification letters were sent to TANCO's contact list on April 9, 2010 via Canada Post. The letters briefly described the need for a notice of alteration and identified the date and location of the upcoming open house. Notification of the public open house was also provided in regionally/provincially circulated newspapers, including:

- Winnipeg Free Press – April 17
- The Clipper Weekly (Beausejour) –April 12
- The Winnipeg River Echo (Powerview-Pine Falls) – April 14
- Lac du Bonnet Leader – April 16

TANCO also placed an ad in The Paper (Pinawa) on April 14; however, due to difficulties with the printing press that week the ad was not run.

Copies of the open house newspaper advertisements as well as copies of the open house notification letters are included in Appendix K.

7.2.3 *OPEN HOUSE*

A public open house was held in Lac du Bonnet on April 28, 2010 from 2 pm to 7 pm at the Lac du Bonnet Community Centre. Key TANCO employees and their environmental consultant, Tetra Tech, were present for the duration of the open houses to answer questions.

The open house was an informal, "drop in" event. Display boards presented project-related information pertaining to:

- The purpose of the open house
- The Bernic Lake facility
- Site infrastructure
- Operations (i.e., tailings, residue, water, waste management, etc.)
- Mine closure and reclamation
- Environmental impact assessment
- Environmental monitoring
- Timeline and opportunities for public input

Full-size (90 cm x 60 cm) display boards were provided and available as a handout. A Copy of the display boards is provided in Appendix L.

A sign-in sheet was located at the entrance of the venue in order to capture information related to the number of attendees and which communities/organizations each attendee was representing.

Comment forms were available to ensure that those persons wishing to identify concerns, ideas, and opportunities could do so, anonymously or with contact information for follow-up after the event.

The open house was attended by 15 persons. The attendees represented key organizations including Sagkeeng First Nation, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Nopiming Sno-mads Snowmobile Club, Bird Lake Cottagers, the mayors of Lac du Bonnet and Pinawa, and a representative of Vic Toews, member of Parliament for Provencher.

7.3 REGULATORY INVOLVEMENT

As an operating facility, TANCO is in regular contact with Manitoba Conservation. With respect to the Notice of Alteration, TANCO, Cabot, and Tetra Tech met with the Director of Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch as well as staff from the Municipal, Industrial and Hazardous Waste Section. This meeting was held at the Wardrop office in Winnipeg on January 12, 2010.

7.4 PUBLIC RESPONSE

Comments from the public at the open house were positive. Tetra Tech documented verbal comments and questions by attendees including the following:

Bird Lake Cottagers Representative

- Why is TANCO holding this open house?
 - Response - to inform the public about the Notice of Alteration, which is being submitted to consolidate previously approved changes to the mine's Environment Act Licence.
- How is product transported and to where?
 - Response - spodumene is transported to the rail siding at Molson; cesium products are transported in totes by truck to a Winnipeg storage facility; and tantalum is transported in barrels.
- Good operation, hasn't been a problem for cottagers at Bird Lake.

- Cottagers would like to see the Province or DFO create a spillway at the culvert on TANCO Road as it is viewed as impounding water at Bird Lake.
 - Response – increasing flow capacity at the mine road crossing of the Bird River will not affect water levels on Bird Lake.

Brokenhead Ojibway Nation Representative

- Brokenhead has Treaty Land Entitlement in and around Lac du Bonnet area.
- Respect that we were given notice of the open house.
- No issues with facility.
- Would like to be kept on the mailing list.

Sagkeeng First Nation Representative

- Is cesium radioactive?
 - Response – no.
- Why is TANCO holding this open house?
 - Response - same as above.
- If the mine has been operating since 1969, does that mean it is operating under outdated regulations?
 - Response - no, the mine must follow current legislation.
- What is the difference between shallow and deep groundwater in the tailings area?
 - Response - refer to Section 4.1.5 for a discussion of the hydrogeology of the tailings area.
- What changes have been made to the operation over the years?
 - Response - refer to Section 1.3 and Table 1.2 for a history of changes to the operation.

Vic Toews Representative

- What is the expected mine life?
 - Response - proven reserve for 7 years, surface operations may extend another 7 years.

- Road condition (i.e., washboard)
 - Response - TANCO calls the Province when road maintenance is required.

- Why is TANCO holding an open house?
 - Response - same as above.

7.5 CONTINUING COMMUNICATION

TANCO will continue open dialogue with its contact list as necessary. TANCO is committed to maintaining the long-term relationships it has developed with its neighbouring communities and organizations over the past 40 years.