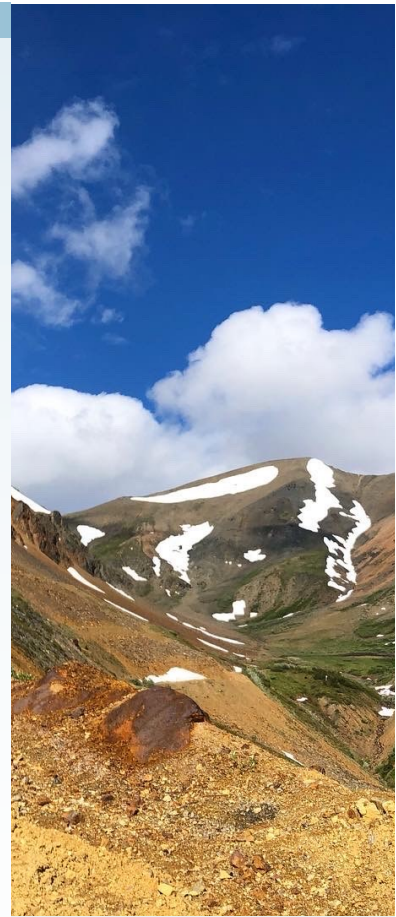


Dena Cho

Environmental and Remediation Inc.

A Dena Nezziddi Development Corp. Company



Dena Cho Environmental and Remediation Inc. (Dena Cho) is a 100% Ross River Dena owned and operated environmental management company. Dena Cho provides professional environmental services for all stages of mining projects: exploration, construction, operation, closure, and environmental management. Our team is proud to say that Dena Cho is the only 100% First Nation’s owned environmental management company in Yukon!

We are committed to consistently communicating with the community of Ross River, and more importantly, gathering feedback and direction on projects. This is our first newsletter, and going forward we intend on providing monthly newsletters to the Ross River Dena Council via the Lands Office. We encourage feedback on the content of this newsletter as we aim to keep our community informed and engaged! In this first newsletter, we primarily focus on updates related to the Faro Mine Remediation Project and the impact assessment for that project. Future newsletters will feature other projects as well.

Current Projects

- The Faro Mine Remediation Project
- The Ketzra River Mine Remediation Project
- The Wolverine Mine (water treatment and environmental monitoring)
- The Progressive Reclamation Working Group (Yukon Government Mining Memorandum Table) - Research assistance
- Kudz Ze Kayah Project - Environmental Assessment Review
- Native Plant Nursery/Greenhouse Feasibility Study
- North Canol - Telegraph Wire Cleanup
- Ross River - Contaminated Site Assessment at the Whiskers Lake Coal Mine
- Ross River - Assisting the Lands Department with creek drinking water sampling

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Kathlene Suza cutting the ribbon for the North Fork Rose Creek Realignment

Upcoming Projects

- The North Canol Trail Environmental Site Assessment
- A Faro Mine Community-Based Revegetation Strategy (we will have a kick-off meeting at the beginning of November with RRDC)

Faro Mine Remediation Project

Faro YESAB Review Updates: The Faro Remediation Project is currently moving through the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment (YESA) process. As new documents are posted on YESAB’s registry, Dena Cho summarizes the content and provides this to Ross River Dena Council. In June 2020, YESAB sent the Faro Remediation team several “information requests.” Information requests are questions that the Faro Remediation team needs to answer before the project can move forward in the YESAB process. On September 22, 2020, the Faro Remediation team submitted their most recent set of answers. Dena Cho has summarized these information requests and the Project team’s answers, which will be presented to Chief and Council and the Lands Department. If anyone would like more information on the YESAB process for Faro or would like to look at the summaries we have completed, feel free to contact us.

Faro Community-Based Revegetation Work: Dena Cho obtained funding from the Canadian Government to engage with Ross River Elders, community leaders, youth and others to determine revegetation objectives for Faro. This project will be an excellent chance for Ross River community members to have more of a say in how remediation at Faro is completed and how the site will look in the future. Dena Cho will be working with the Lands Department and RRDC to ensure that we follow Kaska protocols for the use of plants. Over the coming six months, we plan to host a community workshop, complete interviews with Elders and other community members, and provide revegetation training for summer fieldwork in 2021. Stay tuned!

Our Team

Stu Van Bibber, General Manager

Jody Inkster, Environmental Scientist and Project Manager

Billie Maje, Field Technician and Project Manager

Caitlynn Beckett, Researcher and Project Manager

Amber Etzel, Field Technician

Eric John, Field Technician

Freddy Dick, Field Technician

Robyn McLeod, Field Technician





Water flowing through the new North Fork Rose Creek Realignment channel, October 2020



Tour of the Faro mine lab Facility, August 2020

Faro Technical Review Committee (TRC)

Dena Cho attends bi-weekly TRC meetings for Faro (along with the Faro Secretariat, Kathlene Suza). These meetings include updates on site conditions, care and maintenance activities and remediation design planning. Updates from these meetings are provided to RRDC regularly. Highlights from the past couple of months include:

North Fork Rose Creek Realignment: The Faro Remediation Project team has been working on constructing a new diversion channel for the North Fork of Rose Creek (around the Faro pit). They completed this diversion channel for clean water on October 24, 2020. Kathlene Suza was present to cut the ribbon for this new creek diversion.

Fish Overwintering Ponds: The Faro Project team constructed fish overwintering ponds as a part of the North Fork Rose Creek Realignment project. These overwintering ponds provide additional habitat for fish and wildlife along the new realignment. Dena Cho employed Eric John and Clarence Atkinson to assist Environmental Dynamics Inc. to do a revegetation program at these ponds.

Cross Valley Ponds Water Treatment Plant: The Faro Remediation Project team is constructing a water treatment plant near the cross valley dam (in addition to the main water treatment plant near the old mill). This water treatment plant should be finished by the end of October and ready for operation in summer 2021. Once completed, the CVPTP will allow for about 33% more contaminated water from the Faro side of the property to be treated seasonally before releasing to the environment.

- The Project is currently undergoing a safety review of all the dams on the Faro site to ensure that the dams are safe and that there are appropriate surveillance systems in place to catch any problems.
- There will be an installation of a backup generator to ensure that water treatment can continue if there are power outages.

Elder's Quote

"We are people of the land. We cannot eat rocks. That is what we are left with. We need to heal the scars of the land. We are surrounded by mines, abandoned mines, that are harming wildlife and plants".



Ketza site tour for RRDC in September

Ketza River Mine Remediation Project

In September, Dena Cho coordinated a site tour with Yukon Government and the Canadian Government for RRDC Elders and representatives. The tour allowed for introductions to government officials managing the current care and maintenance of Ketza and also the managers of the proposed remedial process. This tour was an important step for all parties involved as it provided an avenue for direct communication with the project managers as RRDC's Elders and citizens have great concerns. The project is in the early part of phase 1 of the remediation process, which focuses on planning, consultation, and engagement.

As technical advisors to RRDC, Dena Cho has reviewed the draft terms of reference and other notable mine closure documents. As well, Dena Cho participates in monthly working groups and provides updates to RRDC about the ongoing remediation planning.

Additionally, Dena Cho is collaboratively working with Hemmera (an environmental consultancy firm) on the Ketza environmental monitoring program that includes surface and groundwater quality monitoring as part of the current care and maintenance work. Dena Cho has participated in sampling events since April 2020, and we will continue to do so in the coming months with Hemmera's support.



Wolverine Mine

One of Dena Cho's long-term projects is the environmental monitoring program at the Wolverine Mine. Currently, the mine is under care and maintenance. Monitoring of surface water, groundwater, tailings storage facility and treated water are required under the existing Water Licence (QZ04-065) issued to the Yukon Zinc Corporation. While the Wolverine Mine has been shut down since January 2015 and is now in receivership, environmental monitoring resumed in 2018 and has continued as mandated through the

Yukon Government – Energy Mines and Resources, Assessment and Abandoned Mines (YG-AAM). Monitoring is implemented under a contract between the former Alexco Environmental Group - Dena Nezziddi Remediation Limited Partnership, now Ensero Solutions-Dena Nezziddi Remediation Limited Partnership (ES-DN RLP) and Yukon Government (YG). Dena Cho will continue environmental monitoring at Wolverine Mine during the winter of 2020/2021 under the management of Billie Maje.



Kudz Ze Kayah Environmental Assessment Review

On October 21st, 2020, the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB) completed their review of the Kudz Ze Kayah (KZK) Project (the Project). YESAB approved the Project to proceed, so long as BMC (No. 1) Minerals Ltd. apply thirty measures to reduce, control, or eliminate harmful effects to the environment and your community.

Dena Cho also completed a review of the Project, where we found over 60 technical issues with the Project (Dena Cho did not review Traditional Knowledge or Socio-Economic issues). The issues Dena Cho brought forward came directly from interviews we had with over fifteen Elders. Dena Cho feels that because of our work, the Project is more protective of the environment, but some technical issues remain. Dena Cho continues to work with Elders and BMC to address these issues.

What does this all mean for BMC?

1. BMC has completed the YESAB review of their Project;
2. BMC is now allowed to move forward to licensing and permitting; and
3. After licensing and permitting, BMC will then be allowed to construct and operate a mine.

What does this mean for Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) and community members? Although BMC has made it through YESAB:

1. You will still have a chance to voice your opinion on the Project during licensing and permitting;
2. You will still have a chance to raise your concerns related to caribou and water during licensing and permitting; and
3. You will still be able to discuss the Elder's Oversight Committee Terms and Conditions for RRDC Consent with BMC.

This is important, as Dena Cho feels that although our technical review made the Project safer for the environment and wildlife, there remains outstanding issues raised by the community that still need to be addressed.

Training Initiatives

- Dena Cho staff completed ATV training as a team in October 2020
- A three week training program for Ross River students on mining-related projects in August at Faro Mine, Ketza Mine, and Wolverine Mine.

Faro Mine Complex on August 26, 2020

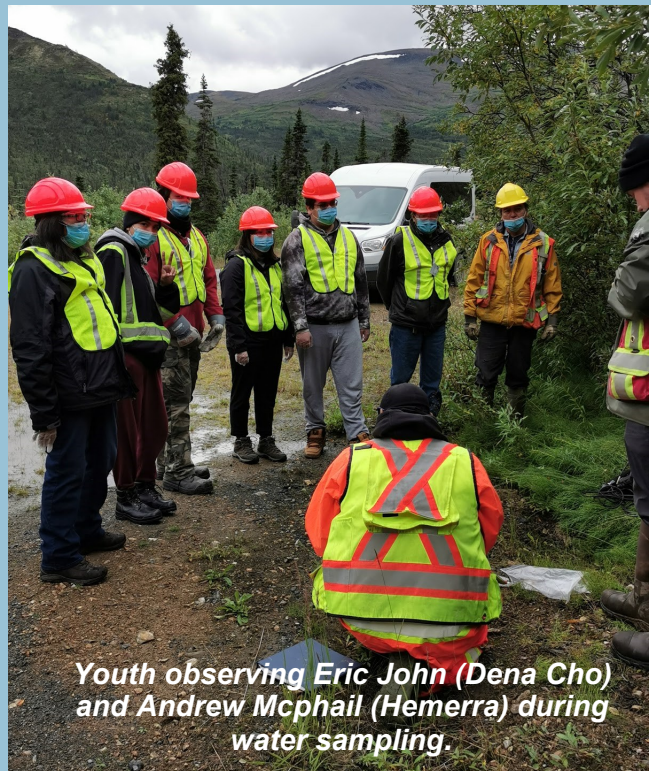


Justin Straker (Integrated Ecology Group) was showing the revegetation program at the Faro mine site.

Ketza River Mine Tour on August 20, 2020



David Dickson (Boreal Engineering) showing the operations of a water treatment plant at Ketza.



Youth observing Eric John (Dena Cho) and Andrew Mcphail (Hemerra) during water sampling.