

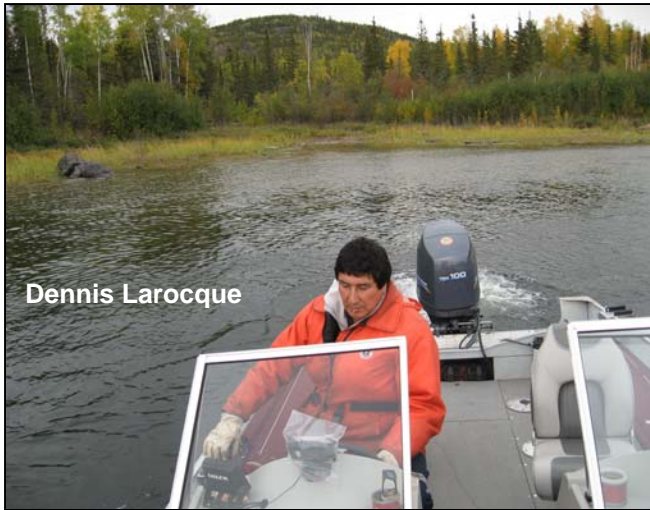


CanNorth

CAMSELL PORTAGE

Athabasca Working Group Environmental Monitoring Program 2007

The Athabasca Working Group (AWG) environmental monitoring program has been going on since 2000 and provides Northerners the opportunity to test the environment around their communities for contaminants that could come from active uranium mining and milling operations. Contaminants can potentially be spread by water flowing from lakes near the uranium operations, and small amounts may also be spread through the air. In order to address public concerns, lakes, rivers, plants, wildlife, and air quality are tested in northern Saskatchewan near the communities of Camsell Portage, Uranium City, Black Lake, Stony Rapids, Fond-du-Lac, and Wollaston Lake.



Dennis Larocque

Selection of the types of plants and animals sampled, the locations sampled, and the sample collections were carried out by, or with the help of, northern community members. The purpose of this brochure is to inform the public of the results from the 2007 environmental monitoring program completed in the Camsell Portage area.



The goal is to protect a remote living community with a proud history and to safe guard the wildlife that also lives in the environment. On the north shore of Lake Athabasca; this hamlet is truly a part of the Canadian Boreal Forest.



Beverly Herd Caribou

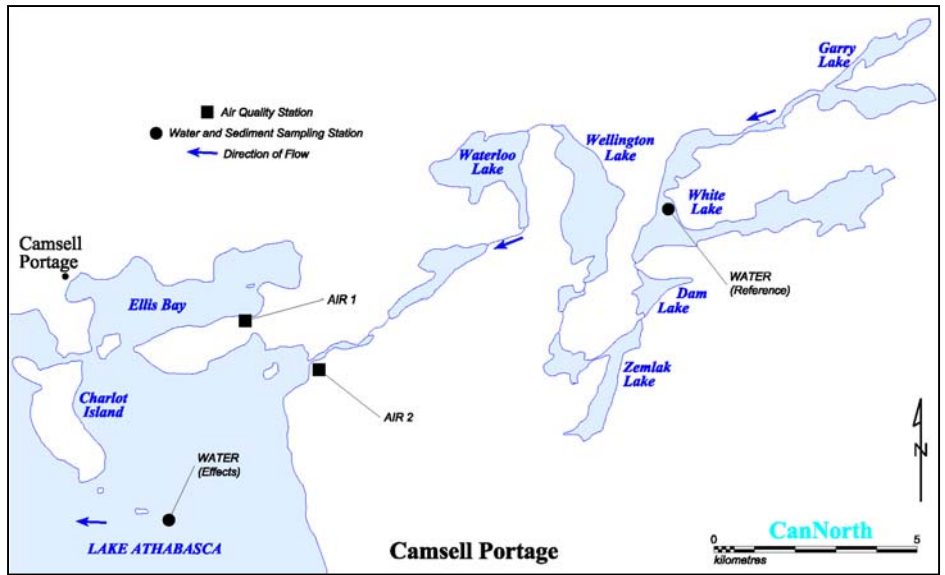


Ryan Washenfelder

STUDY AREA

Water, sediment, and fish are sampled from “reference” and potential “effects” sites. White Lake is the “reference” site because it is not expected to contain contaminants from uranium operations. Lake Athabasca is the potential “effects” site because it is downstream of waterbodies that could carry contaminants from upstream uranium operations.

Air quality is monitored at two locations near the community of Camsell Portage. Similarly, plant and wildlife samples are collected each year near the community.

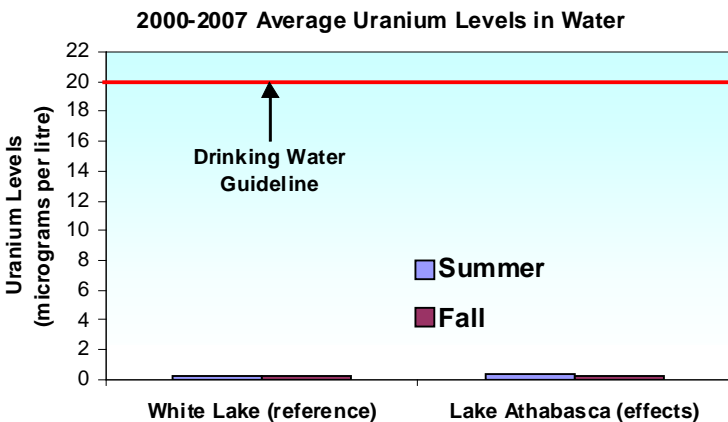


KEY PARAMETERS

The focus is on certain contaminants related to uranium operations that are of concern to human and environmental health. These include: copper, lead, nickel, molybdenum, zinc, radium-226, uranium, selenium, and arsenic. All of these parameters occur naturally in the environment and in parts of northern Saskatchewan they can sometimes be found in high amounts. To help establish whether the key parameters found in samples are naturally occurring or whether they are from uranium operations, the amounts measured are compared: 1) between “reference” and potential “effects” sites, 2) between years, and 3) to available guidelines.



RESULTS



WATER

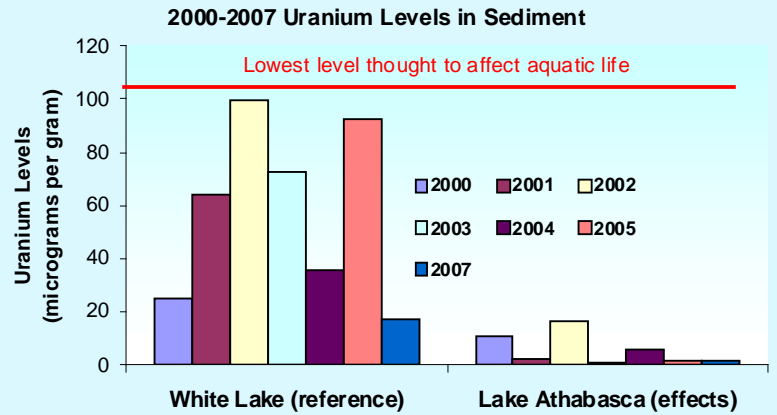
In 2007, water samples were collected from the potential “effects” site in Lake Athabasca. As in previous years, the levels of all key parameters were below the provincial guidelines for the protection of aquatic life and drinking water quality (see graph of uranium data). In fact, the levels of all key parameters were generally too low for the laboratory to detect throughout the 2000 to 2007 sampling years. The consistently low levels of key parameters measured during each of the sampling years indicates the water quality from the Lake Athabasca potential “effects” station is not a concern for northern residents.

SEDIMENT

Sediment is the mud on the lake bottom. Contaminants from mine sites can potentially be carried by flowing water to lakes where they can be left in the sediment on the lake bottom. It is important to sample the sediment, because many different types of small animals that are eaten by fish live in the sediment. Sediment samples were collected from the same locations used for water sampling.

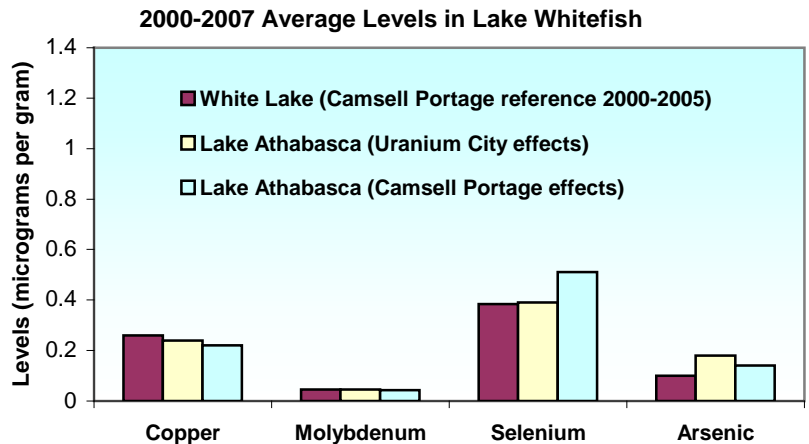
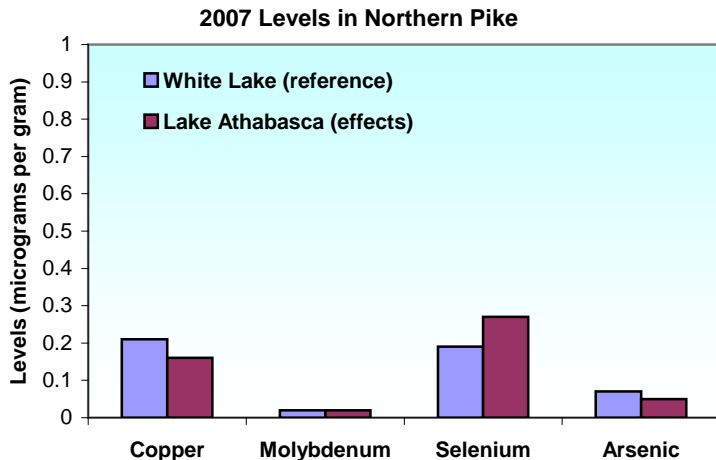
Each year the AWG program has measured higher levels of key parameters at the White Lake "reference" site than at the Lake Athabasca potential "effects" site. This indicates that the parameters occur at higher levels naturally in the area, since there is no exposure to mining activities in White Lake. The graph shows levels of uranium measured in the sediment since 2000. Levels have remained below the lowest level thought to affect aquatic life.

Overall, the levels of key parameters in the sediment are within the expected range for the area.



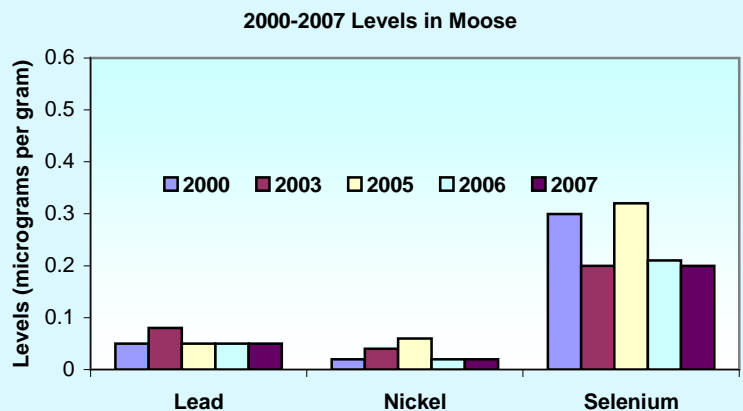
FISH

The levels of the key parameters measured in the 2007 northern pike flesh samples were similar between lakes and were similar to levels measured in previous sampling years. No whitefish were caught in White Lake in 2007, but the levels in samples collected near Uranium City in 2007 and in previous years had expected levels of the key parameters for the area (see graph). Overall, the levels of key parameters were within the expected range for the area and are not a concern for northern residents.



WILDLIFE

Moose and caribou samples were collected from the Camsell Portage area in 2007. None of the contaminants measured appear to be increasing from year to year. The graph shows the average levels measured in moose samples from the Camsell Portage area from 2000 to 2007.

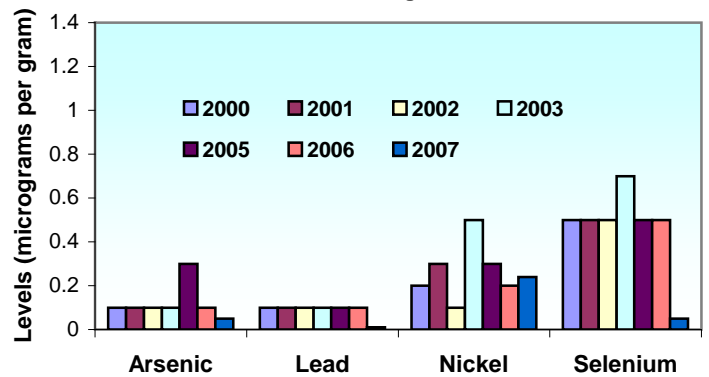


PLANTS

Samples of Labrador tea, blueberries, and bog cranberries were collected near the community of Camsell Portage in 2007. The levels of key parameters in the plants were generally similar between sampling years (as seen in the graph showing the bog cranberry results) and were similar to levels measured in plants collected near other northern communities.



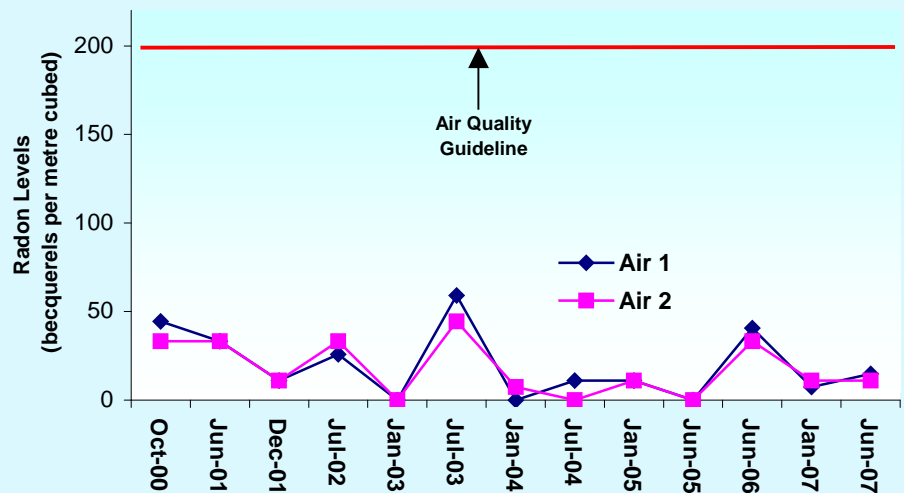
2000-2007 Levels in Bog Cranberries



RADON

Air quality was monitored at two locations near the community of Camsell Portage by measuring radon levels. Radon is an odourless, tasteless gas produced naturally by the breakdown of uranium and radium-226 in the soil and water. As a result, radon levels are naturally higher in areas where uranium is found in the ground, especially in the summer months when the ground thaws and releases the gas into the air. Radon levels have remained low and show natural seasonal changes (as seen in the graph).

Radon Levels from 2000-2007



CONCLUSION

Lake Athabasca is one of the largest lakes in Canada and is far downstream from the uranium projects currently operating in northern Saskatchewan. The levels of key parameters in the water, sediment, fish, plant, wildlife, and air samples from Camsell Portage have remained similar since the AWG program began in 2000. The results of the 2007 AWG environmental monitoring program do not indicate that there are any environmental or human health concerns near the community of Camsell Portage as a result of the operational uranium mining and milling projects.



THANK YOU

The involvement of community members is very important in planning and conducting the AWG program. Thank you to the AWG members, who include representatives from the seven northern communities and the industrial partners, Cameco Corporation and AREVA Resources Canada Inc. The AWG program thanks all the northern residents who participated in the AWG sample collections over the past years, especially Dennis Larocque who has done a great job collecting the samples from the Camsell Portage area in 2007.



This project was managed by CanNorth, an aboriginal environmental services company owned by Kitsaki Management. If you have any questions or comments please contact Peter Vanriel at (306) 652-4432.