



Public Update from The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun

May 4, 2026

Update on the Eagle Mine Crisis Site Status and Management

The seasonal freshet presents a significant concern that an increase in water on the heap and in the Dublin Gulch Valley will overwhelm the existing storage ponds, which would result in further cyanide-contamination overflow events.

Contaminated groundwater remains a significant concern as the groundwater continues to enter Haggart Creek. While some is being intercepted and captured, contamination is still occurring.

Water discharge measures into Haggart Creek are consistently not meeting all of the effluent quality standards outlined in the Water Use Licence. These combined issues mean that water in Haggart Creek does not meet all long-term (chronic) water quality guidelines for the protection of aquatic life

FNNND began advocating in the summer and fall of 2025 for the appropriate storage capacity to be created, in order to adequately capture the 2026 freshet. This advocacy continues as issues, including water treatment rates and storage pond liner quality, will impact how much contaminated water from freshet can be captured.

On April 29, FNNND was notified of an unauthorized discharge of contaminated water to Haggart Creek, which exceeded the effluent quality standards under the Water Use license. This was due to an overflow event of the DG4 sump, a groundwater collection sump that was unable to adequately handle the increased levels of meltwater.

FNNND will continue to provide regular updates on the Eagle Gold Mine site management and site conditions throughout the 2026 season.

Update on Activity at Eagle Mine Site

Site Construction

No further stabilization work is scheduled to occur on the heap. FNNND is concerned about this decision as further work on the lower heap is required in order to support the overall safety of the site.

The Receiver will be conducting some drilling on the heap in the coming weeks in order to gather further information about the condition and strength of the ore affected by the failure. This will require the construction of a ramp on the upper escarpment to support drill access.

Storage

Storage on site remains the only method to manage the containment of the cyanide solutions. The current pond capacities as of April 27, 2026:

- Events Pond | size: 266,000m³ | 56% full of cyanide solution; some contaminated water is being pumped to the DG2R sump and from there to Pit Pond 1/2.
- Control Pond | size: 79,000m³ | 46% full; a plan to fix known leaks in this pond is presently being developed.
- IROSA Pond 1 | size: 26,000m³ | 32% full of non-cyanide mine water, single liner.
- IROSA Pond 2 | size: 85,000m³ | 17% full of cyanide solution, new double liner, but inner liner known to be leaking with leakage captured on outer liner in leak detection system.
- Pit Pond 1/2 | size: 180,000m³ | 72% full of cyanide solution, new double liner, but inner liner known to be leaking, with leakage captured on outer liner in leak detection system.
- Pit Pond 3 | size: 74,000m³ | 87% full; trial biological treatment pond.
- 1075 Pond | size: 90,000 m³ | 83% full of cyanide solution, double liner.

In-Heap Pond on the Heap has an unknown capacity and amount of cyanide solution. The spring melt is well on its way at the time of writing.

Over the past few months, there have been a number of spill events on site, particularly from damage to pond liners, overflowing of a pond and several along the pumping lines.

FNNND has repeatedly expressed concerns over the adequacy of the piping and pumping systems.

The still unknown level of damage to the heap continues to result in seepage of contaminants into the environment and groundwater.

Water Treatment & Discharge

Water treatment operations ceased for the winter on November 13, 2025 and discharge restarted on April 14, 2025.

Water treatment continues to rely on temporary water treatment systems similar to 2025. After pressure from FNNND, ion exchange treatment has been added to help remove cobalt from the cyanide solution because the previous treatment systems were unable to meet the water licence standard for cobalt.

Currently, discharge levels are averaging 4,000 m³ per day, but PwC/VGC hope to increase this to as much as 12,000 m³ per day as the season progresses.

So far, an approximate total of 40,000 m³ (to April 27) has been discharged.

As of April, snow in the mine area is beginning to thaw, producing mine contact water. This water is treated in a separate system that removes sediment and some metals.

Groundwater collection continues in 9 wells that began pumping in 2025 located in the Dublin Gulch valley. Two additional wells were added to the pumping system in March and April 2026.

Collection of groundwater seepage near Haggart Creek also continues in several locations.

Pumping systems for groundwater and seepage have experienced several failures during the winter, which sometimes resulted in measurable increases of contaminants in Haggart Creek.

Some failed pumps have been replaced with smaller pumps because PwC/VGC did not have adequate spares.

NND's Water Monitoring Update

Planning for summer environmental monitoring is well underway. These plans will be shared once finalized.

The frequency of sampling water quality in Haggart Creek has been increased with the start of discharge from the Water Treatment Plant, following the environmental monitoring plan. Water quality in the creek has been meeting Water Quality Objectives for the past few weeks, reflecting more success in intercepting contaminated groundwater before it reaches the creek.

NND's Aquatic Health & Fish Monitoring Update

Fish Monitoring

Planning is underway to collect a third year's data on fish in the Haggart Creek watershed. This year's field sampling will be conducted in August and involve crews from FNNND Lands, Environment Yukon, and DFO. NND Lands staff have reviewed a recently completed report on last year's monitoring. Another year of data, ideally with no moving of fish required to avoid toxic water required, will be needed to more fully assess effects of the heap leach pad failure.

In collaboration with Environment Yukon, FNNND Lands has been analysing samples of tissue from grayling in Haggart Creek and moose in the McQuesten River watershed to evaluate whether there has been any accumulation of contaminants that would be of concern. We have results back from the last two years and these do not indicate any problems to date.

Other Aquatic Life

Planning is underway to collect a third year's data on aquatic insects in the Haggart Creek watershed this summer. Field crews will be from FNNND, DFO, and Environment Yukon staff and consultants. We are waiting for reports from consultants on last year's sampling and toxicity tests to evaluate effects of the heap leach pad failure to date.