

CURRAGH INC.

006368

Inter-Office Memorandum

TO: File

FROM: Gerry Acott
Manager, Environmental Affairs
Whitehorse Office

RE: **Carmacks Rehabilitation Program - 1992**

DATE: 1992 09 24

Introduction

The following constitutes a brief report on the activities undertaken at the Carmacks properties of Tantalus and Tantalus Butte during the summer of 1992 to ensure the safety of the public in the utilization of those previously mined areas.

History of the Carmacks Coal Property

The Carmacks Coal Properties are located near the village of Carmacks some 180 km. north of Whitehorse, Yukon. The attached map, excerpted from an October 24, 1989 report by J.H. Davis, Consulting Geologist entitled **Status Report on the Carmacks Coal Properties** depicts the exact location of the old workings.

The Carmacks Coal Properties were acquired by Curragh from Cyprus Anvil Mining Corporation in 1985. Underground coal mining had occurred at the Tantalus and Tantalus Butte sites between 1910 and about 1950 while mining at the Five Fingers Mine ceased in the mid 1940's. The Five Fingers Mine was somewhat smaller and all that remains are two collapsed wooden structures neither of which represent any danger (J.H. Davis, 1989). Subsidence and cavings from the underground operations at Tantalus and Tantalus Butte Mines were first documented in 1972 aerial photographs. Open pit mining at Tantalus Butte was completed in 1981. A mine plan for remaining reserves was prepared in 1982 and passed on to Curragh indicating one year of economical open pit reserves in the amount of 21,000 tonnes. Curragh has had no activity in the area since their acquisition. A more detailed discussion of the history of the Carmacks

Coal Properties is contained in the J.H. Davis report and R.P. Hill, 1977b, **Report on Preliminary Evaluation Carmacks Coal Project** and R.P. Hill, 1978a, **Report on 1977 Reconnaissance of Yukon Coal Occurrences**.

Curragh Involvement

On June 11, 1992, a site tour was conducted by Gregg Jilson, Vice President of Exploration and Gerry Acott, Manager of Environmental Affairs after review of the safety concerns expressed in the Davis report. The site tour is documented in the attached internal memo dated June 19, 1992.

The tour confirmed that there was cause for concern about public safety and plans were immediately made to proceed with a rehabilitation effort designed to secure the site from any future public danger.

Land Use Permit

Curragh contacted the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development(DIAND) on June 29 to apply for a permit to conduct the work itemized in the June 11 memo. Land Use Permit # YA2F248 was issued on July 6 authorizing this work to proceed. The permit contained an expiry date of July 31. On July 27, DIAND was notified by letter that the work had not been completed in the allotted time frame and requested an extension to September 31. On July 30, Curragh received confirmation that the permit had been extended to the requested date.

An initial inspection of the property was conducted with G. Acott, Pier Rienks (RMO for DIAND from Carmacks) and Larry Tricker(local contractor) on June 30. The work plan was agreed to and the contractor was given specific instructions as to what was required for the dozer portion of the work. Mr. Rienks inspected the progress of the work on August 4 and filed an interim report indicated work was progressing satisfactorily. Mr. Reinks was advised by telephone on August 19 that M.J. Moreaux would be starting on the hand portion of the work later that day. On September 24, Mr. Reinks was advised by telephone that all work had been completed and a final inspection could be done.

Site Work

Mr. Larry Tricker of Kando Enterprises was contracted to provide dozer services to regrade the upper subsidence in the area of the "smoking pit". The work was initiated on July 29 and completed on August 10 requiring a total of 96 hours of D7 dozer time at \$80 per hour for a total cost of \$7680 excluding GST. This included reducing the slope angle of the walls, recontouring the area to permit seeding and filling holes and raises.

M.J. Moreaux Enterprises Ltd. of Whitehorse was contracted to conduct the hand work required. The work commenced on August 19 and proceeded until September 15. A compressor and two men were utilized for the first seven days to jackhammer the overhanging wall over the raise opening at the Tantalus site and collapse material to fill the hole. Vegetation was removed from a ten metre radius around the hole and signs were erected to warn hikers that there had been underground mining in the area and to walk with caution. The remaining time was spent at the Tantalus Butte site and involved hand work on the subsidence areas from the "smoking pit" area completed by the dozer, to the old portal site. Vegetation was cleared in a ten metre swath around each of the cave in areas to make their presence very obvious and approximately 25 metal signs were posted to warn potential users of the dangers. Mattocks and shovels were used to contour the edges of the subsidences to ensure there would be no danger of people standing on the edge and the ground collapsing underneath them. Old raise entries were disassembled, manways were filled or plugged and the soil was recontoured around them. At the portal site, the old entries were replanked and signs were posted to keep the public from attempting to enter. A single rail fence was constructed around the caving immediately above the main portal and additional signs were posted. Approximately two days were spent removing any debris from the portal area which presented a safety hazard (bent of twisted metal, planks with nails protruding, etc.) and these materials were hauled to the village landfill. A seed/fertilizer mixture was spread on all disturbed areas, in particular, the area regraded by the dozer.

The hand work cost a total of \$19,837 (exclusive of GST) including compressor, labour for two men, camp, gas/diesel and truck rental costs.

Total expenditures for the project were as follows:

Dozer time		\$7680
Hand Labour		
- 7 days compressor @ \$825	\$5775	
- 21 mandays @ \$550	11550	
- 28 days camp @ \$30	840	
- 28 days truck rental @ \$50	1400	
- gas and diesel	<u>272</u>	19837
Signs		1767
Seed		227
Fertilizer		34
Post pounder (fabrication cost)		90
Lumber		266
Land Use Permit		<u>20</u>
		<u>\$29921</u>

Future Work

Although the site has been secured from public danger, it is quite possible that we will be required, in the next several years to conduct final reclamation at the site. This will involve a moderate amount of dozer work to reslope some the dump faces and rip areas of high compaction prior to seeding. I would estimate that the entire job could be done for about \$10000. This presumes, however, that the government will allow the open pit and associated highwalls to be left in their existing condition. Resloping of the highwalls would involve an intensive drilling, blast, reslope program which would be extremely expensive.