

# ► Background and Corrective Actions Related to a Wolf Attack in Northern Saskatchewan

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# ► Outline

- Background information leading up to the event
- Description of the event
- Immediate actions taken
- Investigation results
- Corrective actions resulting from the investigation

## ► Background Information

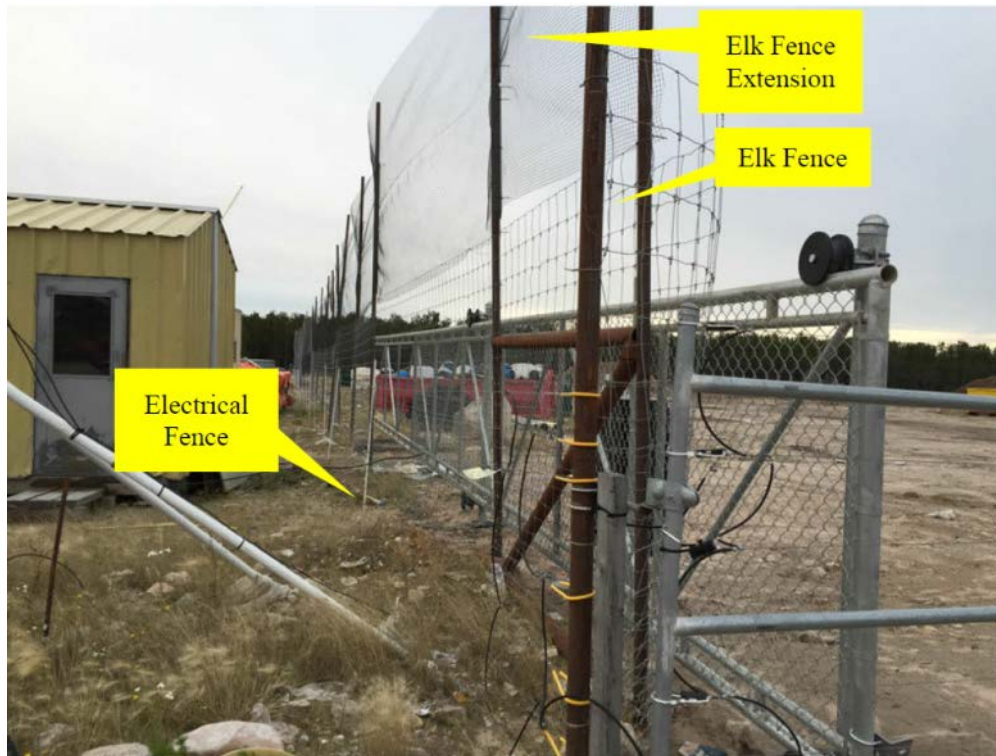
- In 2014 status of the landfill was identified as not adequately maintained and controlled





# ► Background Information

- As a result corrective actions were initiated:  
installation of an elk and electric fence around the active landfill; improved landfill management protocols and food waste handling



## ► Background Information

- As a result of the improvements made to the landfill and food waste handling the wildlife's operational food source was successfully cutoff.
- However, with no easy food source readily available wildlife, especially bears and wolves, began to venture further into the operational workings of Cigar Lake in search for food
- This resulted in an increase in wildlife sights as well as an increased need for hazing, trapping and relocations of both wolves and bears.

## ► Description of Event

- At approximately 12:05 am on August 29, 2016 a night-shift catering contractor was on his meal break and was walking alone on the path from the main camp to the contractor camp (approx. 170 m apart)
- While walking to the contractor camp, a white wolf exited the trees across the road and approached the worker
- The wolf approached within two feet and then attacked the worker on the neck
- The on duty security guard heard the attack from the construction camp, scared the wolf away with her vehicle, called the ERT and administered on-scene first aid

# ► Description of Event



**Contractor  
camp  
entrance**

**Walking Path**

**Location of  
Attack**

**Main camp  
entrance**



# ► Immediate Actions Taken

- As a result of this event a number of actions were taken immediately:
  - Walking bans were immediately implemented
  - Townhall meetings with entire site were completed to properly inform the work force of the event and actions being taken; Conservation Officers participated in these townhalls
  - In consultation with Conservation Officers, wolves were no longer hazed but were destroyed due to habituation (this protocol was in place for seven months)



# ► Immediate Actions Taken

- Trees, tall grasses and brush adjacent to the camps were all removed to increase line of sight and remove cover for animals




# ► Immediate Actions Taken

- A covered walking corridor was installed between the camps with elk fencing installed at both entrances of the corridor



# ► Immediate Actions Taken

 Cigar Lake	Wildlife Activity Guide	Doc. No. ENV-003-03-R1 Rev. No. 2
		Date Revised: Jan.28/17 Date Issued: Jan.19/17
Risk Description/and Requirements		Risk Colour Indicator
<b>Normal Wildlife Risk: No increased wildlife activity</b>  <u>Day Time Hours:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Walking between work buildings alone: PERMITTED</li><li>Walking to/from camp alone: PERMITTED</li><li>Walking between camps alone: PERMITTED (Arctic Corridor usage: OPTIONAL)</li><li>Working alone PERMITTED</li></ul> <u>Night Time Hours:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Walking between work buildings alone: PERMITTED</li><li>Walking to/from camp alone: PERMITTED</li><li>Walking between camps alone: PERMITTED (Arctic Corridor usage: OPTIONAL)</li><li>Working alone PERMITTED</li><li>Recommend to carry communication device (Radio/Cell Phone)</li></ul>		GREEN
<b>Moderate Wildlife Risk: Some increased wildlife activity/sightings (ex. Bears or Wolves spotted in areas but no human/animal interactions)</b>  <u>Day Time Hours:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Walking between work buildings alone: PERMITTED</li><li>Walking to/from camp alone: PERMITTED</li><li>Walking between camps alone: PERMITTED (Arctic Corridor usage: OPTIONAL)</li><li>Working alone PERMITTED</li></ul> <u>Night Time Hours:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Walking between work buildings alone: PERMITTED</li><li>Walking to/from camp in pairs/group: REQUIRED</li><li>Walking between camps alone: PERMITTED (Arctic Corridor usage: REQUIRED)</li><li>Working alone: PERMITTED</li><li>Avoid solitary activities at Dusk/Dawn. Recommend to carry communication device (Radio/Cell Phone)</li></ul>		YELLOW
<b>Increased Wildlife Risk: High Wildlife Activity (ex. Repeated sightings of animals in one or more particular areas)</b>  <u>Day Time Hours:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Walking between work buildings alone: PERMITTED</li><li>Walking to/from camp in pairs/groups: REQUIRED</li><li>Walking between camps alone: PERMITTED (Arctic Corridor usage: REQUIRED)</li><li>Working alone PERMITTED</li></ul> <u>Night Time Hours:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Walking between work buildings alone: PERMITTED</li><li>Walking to/from camp: NOT ALLOWED (VEHICLES MUST BE USED)</li><li>Walking between camps in pairs/groups: REQUIRED (Arctic Corridor usage: REQUIRED)</li><li>Working in pairs/groups: REQUIRED</li><li>Communication device (Radio/Cell Phone): REQUIRED</li></ul>		RED
<b>High Wildlife Risk: Dangerously high, aggressive animal activity (ex. Not responding to hazing, aggressive behavior)</b>  <u>Day Time Hours:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Walking between work buildings in pairs/groups: REQUIRED</li><li>Walking to/from camp: NOT ALLOWED (VEHICLES MUST BE USED)</li><li>Walking between camps in pairs/groups: NOT ALLOWED (VEHICLES MUST BE USED)</li><li>Working in pairs/groups: REQUIRED</li></ul> <u>Night Time Hours:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Walking between work buildings in pairs/groups: REQUIRED</li><li>Walking to/from camp: NOT ALLOWED (VEHICLES MUST BE USED)</li><li>Walking between camps in pairs/groups: NOT ALLOWED (VEHICLES MUST BE USED)</li><li>Working in pairs/groups: REQUIRED</li><li>Arctic Corridor usage: NOT ALLOWED</li><li>Communication device (Radio/Cell Phone): REQUIRED</li></ul>		BLACK

- Wildlife hazard requirements were established along with signs around site



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# ► Investigation Results

- Causal Factors:
  - Human behaviours which can attract wildlife
  - Less vigilant reporting of wildlife sightings
  - Habituated wildlife
  - Inimical effect due to improvements made
- Root Causes:
  - Tolerant culture towards wildlife
  - Inadequate safety rules on wildlife
  - Inadequate knowledge on wildlife
  - Inadequate risk assessment on wildlife



# ► Investigation Results

## Corrective Actions

- Implement improved safety rules related to wildlife to improve human behaviours related to wildlife
- Update wildlife training to include all information related to Cameco wildlife management practices, wildlife sighting reporting requirements, wildlife safety rules, as well as information on habituated wildlife behaviours, and minimum steps to be taken during a wildlife encounter
- Update rules around wildlife deterrence measures and training all appropriate staff in these requirements (i.e. 3-strike rule)
- Work with third party experts to improve the Cameco wildlife standard to ensure industry best practice is incorporated into requirements at all Saskatchewan operations



# ► Questions

Thank you!



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