

## Uranium Moratorium Under Review

The Nunatsiavut Government's (NG) review of the uranium moratorium is an important step towards responsible development of Nunatsiavut's resources. It is important that every member of the community be given a voice in this review process.

NG is to be commended for making great progress in preparing for future resource development opportunities:

- The government's Land Use Plan is almost complete and the final consultations are happening now
- The Environmental Protection Act is completed and environmental regulations are being prepared
- The Assembly Members and senior government officials have completed a workshop to learn about uranium mining and the science of radiation health and safety.

Aurora has always been committed to responsible mineral development that will bring many benefits to the people of Labrador, and we continued face-to-face community engagement programs – listening, learning and talking – even with the moratorium in place. While we consulted with Labrador community members, we helped show that radiation safety, tailings management and environmental protection are being successfully

carried out at uranium mines around the world, and it can happen here too.

We believe that, as a result of these meetings, community members now have a much better understanding of uranium mining.

We also discussed how lifting the moratorium and opening up the region to resource development will bring many economic benefits to Nunatsiavut. There will be opportunities for training, well-paying jobs, as well as increased business for local Inuit companies.

Paladin Energy, the company that owns Aurora Energy, currently operates two state-of-the-art mines in Africa (Malawi and Namibia) and has other uranium projects underway in Niger and Australia.

### Next Steps

If the moratorium is lifted, Aurora will take a few years to complete its exploration program. Once everything has been prepared, Aurora would then get ready to begin the regulatory process, which is likely a number of years away.

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### Do you want to know more about the Michelin Project and uranium mining globally?

Our website, [www.aurora-energy.ca](http://www.aurora-energy.ca) (Learning Portal), offers details on this project, as well as links to important resource websites like the Canadian Nuclear Safety Committee (CNSC) and the World Nuclear Association (WNA). Have an informed opinion, check out [www.aurora-energy.ca](http://www.aurora-energy.ca) today.



# Michelin Project Overview

## Key Points

- Conventional development – open pit and underground mine
- Mill at Michelin
- Three-year construction; 17-year production schedule
- Processing: 10,000 tonnes of ore per day
- Production: 5.7 million pounds  $U_3O_8$  per annum (average)
- \$132.5 million spent so far; a large portion in Nunatsiavut

## Infrastructure

- Deep water port near Postville
- 140-kilometre, year-round road linking the mine and port sites to North West River
- Electrical transmission line from Happy Valley-Goose Bay to the mine and port sites
- Accommodations for 400 people



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## Employment

- 700 jobs during construction; 400 jobs during operations
- Long term careers, transferable skills and valuable work experience
- Opportunity to live and work in Nunatsiavut

## Regulatory, Environment, Safety

The resource at Michelin is low-grade uranium (meaning it contains low levels of radiation). This will result in a mining process that is easier to carry out and which contains no heavy metals or sulphur compounds to cause water quality problems. From an environmental management perspective this is good news. Water discharged from the site will be treated to ensure the environment is protected and to meet the Canadian standards.

In keeping with industry standards, Aurora has developed strict guidelines that employees and contractors must follow when handling radioactive material to safely protect workers and the environment from radiation exposure. These are based on the standards used in Saskatchewan.

# Introducing Paladin to Labrador

## Field Trip with Paladin to Central Mineral Belt, Labrador

In the fall of 2011, senior members of Paladin’s exploration team took a field trip with Aurora staff members through the Central Mineral Belt (CMB) of Labrador. The purpose was to view the landscape and rock formations in order to help Paladin’s geologists get to know the CMB area. It also helped them understand working in the Labrador environment, which has different logistical challenges from Australia and Africa.

While based in Postville, a helicopter was used to transport the crew from location to location. The group was delighted by the many beautiful sights, including the coastline and wildlife such as bears and moose. Just as interesting were the many similarities in geology between Labrador’s CMB region and Mt. Isa in Australia where Paladin has explored for many years.

The four-day field trip was successful in helping introduce Paladin’s geologists to Labrador’s Central Mineral Belt.



Helicopter landing near Makkovik



Black Bear near Makkovik



Field trip participants (l-r) Paul McNeill, Aurora; Steve Barrett, Aurora; Dave Princep, Paladin Energy; Andy Wilde, Paladin Energy; Alex Otto, Paladin Energy

## Other Nuclear Industry News and Notes

### Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)

The CNSC's rules and regulations are amongst the best in the world. Its extensive health and safety requirements protect workers and the public, and make sure nothing happens that will lead to harm people or the environment.

Canada is a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and follows its requirements. That means CNSC makes sure the uranium produced in Canada is only used for peaceful purposes, like medical equipment, medical treatments and nuclear power generation. It cannot and will not be used for non-peaceful purposes such as weapons.

### Fukushima, Japan

When the tragic events at Fukushima occurred, the demand for uranium went down slightly in the short-term. In the long-term, however demand for uranium will be high.

This incident has caused the industry to pause as it considers what lessons can be learned. Every piece of equipment, human performance and emergency response surrounding the incidents in Japan is being looked at by the world's nuclear community. It will use those insights to make nuclear energy even safer.

The world needs more and more electricity. Nuclear power remains an important and reliable source of clean energy and has one of the lowest greenhouse gas emissions rates of any major energy source.

### Safety of Nuclear Industry Worldwide

- More than 430 nuclear reactors are operating safely around the world; three of those reactors were damaged during the events in Fukushima.
- 62 new nuclear reactors are currently under construction.



CT machine

# From “Up North” to “Down Under”

## Aurora’s Principal Geologist Spends Time in Australia

By Paul McNeill  
Principal Geologist  
Aurora Energy

“How ya goin, Mate?”  
“Good ‘b’y. Whaddya at?”

This was the beginning of many of my friendships and acquaintances in the outback during my work assignment at Paladin’s exploration program in the Northern Territory and Queensland in Australia this past summer. Spending time with Aussie folks – and the land around them – has filled most of the past few months as I worked on uranium exploration programs on the Bigryli and Skal deposits. And I am thankful for it.

I visited beautiful places near Mt. Isa and Alice Springs and was also fortunate to have visited some of the most wonderful tongue-twisting sites such as Yuendumu, Mparntwe, Uluru and Mondara. As diverse as these places may be, they have one thing in common – hot and dry weather. The winter daytime temperature was 25-27°C with some days reaching 36°C, but because it is a desert the nights cooled to between 1 and 8°C. There is very little moisture. Most creeks are actually sand or gravel without water, though I am told it is unwise to be in one of these when it starts to rain.



Paul MacNeill (L) and Steve Barrett (R) review plans with Antony Matzkor (C) at Mt. Isa, Australia.

Anything you eat in The Bush is known as Bush Tucker. My American colleague assured me that one such treat, called Bush Melon would be very tasty. Excitedly, I peeled a small baseball-sized melon as my American

friend described all the wondrous things the aboriginal people eat.

We were so interested in his story that several seconds of chewing passed before we realized that our taste buds were screaming that something was very wrong. I learned two things: nothing tastes worse than a Bush Melon and my American friend is not an authority on Bush Tucker.



Kangaroo near Mt. Isa, Australia.

Luckily, other Bush Tucker is much better. Kangaroo rump roast was one of my favourite things to eat while living in the outback. Other delicacies (such as bugs that live on the roots of trees, a common food source) may be one step above a Bush Melon but I did not find them particularly appetizing.

The wildlife in rural Australia is fascinating. I had never imagined that so many types of birds could exist in one place. Yellow and green budgies and pink and white cockatoos were seen everywhere. They travel individually or in flocks of thousands. I often could hear the Kookaburras, which are known for their call that sounds like loud, good-natured human laughter. Daily, I would also hear the unmistakable baby-like call of magpies. I never felt alone with the constant chattering of these busy creatures.

Other than the birds, the days were filled with kangaroos, snakes, spiders and spinifex, a type of grass that grows in Australia.

I am happy to have returned to Newfoundland and Labrador, but I will always treasure my time in the Australian outback where I learned a lot about Paladin’s operations and the diversity between northern Canada and rural Australia.

# Summer Community Support

## Makkovik Trout Festival



The Makkovik Trout Festival Community BBQ, sponsored by Aurora, on Friday, July 22, 2011. Aurora team members Lela Evans, Zena Sheppard, Ches Andersen and Cathy Andersen served about 140 people. Photo courtesy of Lindsay Gear.

## Rigolet Summer Community Feast

This summer, Aurora sponsored the Community Feast portion of the Rigolet Salmon Festival. The three day event included live entertainment, square dancing, and even a "Minute to Win It" contest based on the popular TV game show. The end of the festivities was marked by a community feast where Aurora donated \$500.00 towards the cost of catering the event. Local caterer Carly Blake prepared a variety of salmon dishes as well as desserts and salads. Community members of all ages came together to celebrate the culture and heritage of Rigolet. Big fish tales and bigger fish recipes were exchanged at the community event.



## Makkovik School Athletics Sponsorships

A strong supporter of youth athletics, Aurora was excited to provide team jerseys to J.C. Erhardt Memorial School in Makkovik. The jerseys featured the team name and mascot – a wolverine – and are being used by the school's volleyball, floor hockey and badminton teams. Go Wolverines!



Makkovik Girls Volley Ball Fall Sportsmeet 2011



Makkovik Wolverines Fall Sportsmeet 2011

## North West River Beach Festival

The 26th Annual North West River Beach Festival took place July 23 and 24. Labrador's largest outdoor music festival, the event took place at the Lester Burry Memorial Park on the waterfront. This year's event was a success and Aurora was once again happy to be a sponsor, donating \$500.00 towards costs associated with the event.



North West River Beach Festival

### Team Makkovik Cain's Quest Fundraiser

Aurora provided a snowmobile to the Team Makkovik silent auction. This event was organized to assist in raising money for the Team to attend the 2012 Cain's Quest snowmobile race. Aurora was already a major sponsor of Team Makkovik.

Held on Saturday, September 17, the auction featured a 2008 Tundra 300 snowmobile, provided by Aurora, to be auctioned to the highest bidder. The lucky winner was Natalie Jacque with a bid of \$3,600.00. The event raised \$10,002.00, an amazing amount for a community of 350 people.

Team Makkovik had a strong showing last year placing 9th in the race where they were up against better equipped and more experienced snowmobile racers. In all, only 12 out of 30 teams completed the race.

### Postville Fun in the Sun Festival

As part of Postville's Fun in the Sun Festival, Aurora sponsored a community BBQ where all residents enjoyed grilled hamburgers and hot dogs. In fact, the food was so good that even Premier Kathy Dunderdale and Former Minister Patty Pottle dropped by for a bite to eat!



L-R Zena Sheppard, Aurora's Community Relations Officer in Postville; Former Minister Patty Pottle; Premier Kathy Dunderdale; and Waylon Williams, Aurora's Manager of Community Relations.



The winner Natalie Jacque

## Aurora Team Visits Croteau Property

### 2011 Croteau Summer Prospecting and Sampling Program

Aurora's 2011 summer work activity in Labrador focused on exploring resource potential of the Croteau property. Croteau is on provincial crown land and is located about 70 km southwest of Michelin. The program was conducted during two periods: from July 18th to August 6th and from September 15th until October 6th.

Operations were based from a temporary fly camp set up on the western end of Armstrong Lake using a float-equipped Twin Otter aircraft.

The initial program consisted of soil sampling, prospecting, and radiometric surveying. The second program consisted of prospecting, and broadening the radiometric survey to include a larger area using a spectrometer, and trenching and channel sampling of mineralized zones.

Final results of prospecting, spectrometer survey, soil survey and channel sampling are expected later in the fall.

The work at Croteau was completed by Aurora's Steve Barrett and Paladin's Alex Otto, with the support of two people hired from Makkovik, one from Rigolet and one from Happy Valley-Goose Bay.



## Any questions or comments? Please contact us:

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