### Elk Valley Water Virtual Open House

November 23, 2022



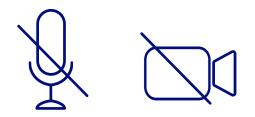
### Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Rory O'Connor Manager, Social Responsibility

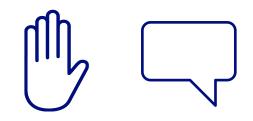




### Using Zoom



Please turn off your video and mute microphones until the Q&A periods



Please feel free to raise your hand or enter any questions in the chat. We will address them at the end of each topic.

For further questions or information contact: <a href="mailto:feedbackteckcoal@teck.com">feedbackteckcoal@teck.com</a>



Safety Message

Elk Valley Water Quality Plan Overall Progress

Water Treatment Facilities Update

Water and Aquatic Health Monitoring Results

Fish Population Results & Recovery Program

Research & Development



### Safety share

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### Health Benefits of Walking

Becoming a regular walker leads to:



Stronger bones



Better range of flexibility and motion



Improved mental health



Lower blood pressure

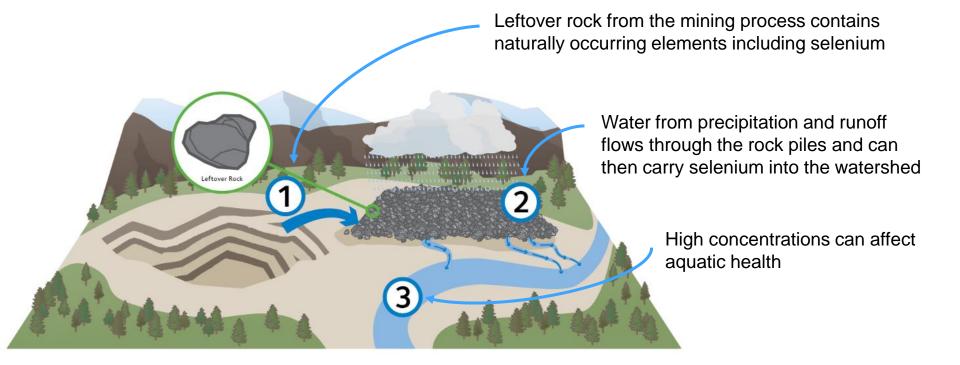
### Elk Valley Water Quality Plan Overall Progress

Matthew Gay, P. Eng Program Director, Water Strategy





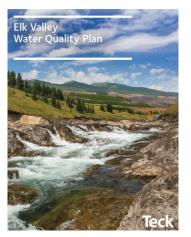
### Mining Can Affect Water Quality



### Elk Valley Water Quality Plan

#### Created collaboratively with the objective to protect the watershed and allow for ongoing mining

- Developed with input from First Nations, US Tribes, Canada and US government
  - agencies, independent scientific experts, public and other stakeholders
- Approved by the Provincial Government in 2014



#### **Plan Objectives**

- Stabilize and reverse the trend of selenium and nitrate, manage calcite formation and protect the ongoing health of the watershed
- Allow for continued sustainable mining in the Elk Valley
- Manage adaptively and adjust to new information and research

#### **Collaboration and Data Sharing**

- Environmental Monitoring Committee
- Lake Koocanusa Monitoring and Research Committee
- Koocanusa Reservoir Transboundary Monitoring Task Group

### 2022 Update To Water Quality Treatment Plan

#### More water treatment online faster

• Compared to 2020

Teck

- ~4x increase in treatment capacity by end 2022 (total of 77,500 m<sup>3</sup>/d)
- ~8x increase in treatment capacity by end 2027 (total of 142,500 m<sup>3</sup>/d)
- Achieved by advancements in new water treatment technologies
- Stabilizing and reducing the selenium trend in the Elk Valley

#### Legend Future Facility

Under Construction

 Ster
 150

 Greenhills Creek | Saturated Rock Fill | December 2027

 apacity
 125

 Bapacity
 125

 Com<sup>3</sup>/d)
 100

 reapacity
 100

 No m<sup>3</sup>/d)
 100

 reapacity
 100

 No m<sup>3</sup>/d)
 100

 reapacity
 100

 New
 Elkview, Saturated Rock Fill | December 2025

 Inew
 Line Creek | Phase 3 | Saturated Rock Fill | December 2025

 Pelenium
 Fording River North | Saturated Rock Fill | December 2025

 20.5 million L

25

50 Fording River North | Saturated Rock Fill

Elkview. Saturated Rock Fill | Phase 1

Fording River South | Phase 1 | Tank-based

West Line Creek | Phase 1 & 2 | Tank-based

Elkview, Saturated Rock Fill | Phase 1 Expansion

Millions of Litres per Day

142.5 million L

7.5 million L

15 million L

20 million L

10 million L

12.5 million L

20.5 million L

9.5 million L

20 million L

10 million L

10 million L

7.5 million L 2027

9.5 million L

20 million L

10 million L

10 million L

7.5 million L

2022

17.5 million L

10 million L

7.5 million L

2020

Year

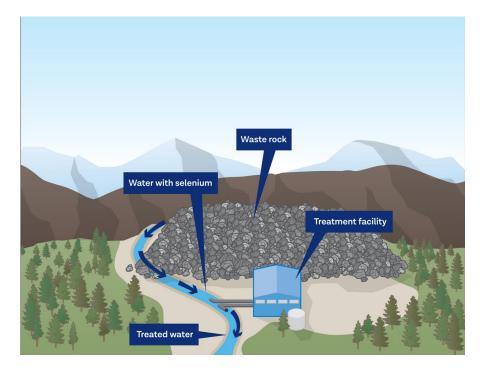
### Continued Advancement of Water Treatment Technologies

Two primary methods for water treatment removing ~95% of selenium

#### Active Water Treatment Facility ("AWTF")

AWTFs are tank-based water treatment systems designed to remove nitrate and selenium from mine impacted water through the following process:

- Biological treatment to convert dissolved forms of selenium to solid form
- Nitrate is converted into inert nitrogen gas and safely released
- Solid selenium is extracted and safely disposed of in a secure offsite waste facility
- Treated water is discharged

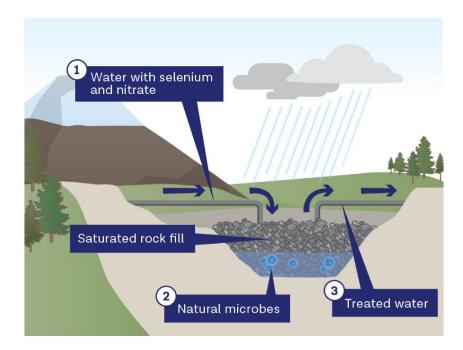


### Continued Advancement of Water Treatment Technologies

Two primary methods for water treatment removing ~95% of selenium

#### Saturated Rock Fill ("SRF")

- Saturated rock fill technology was developed through Teck's research and development program in partnership with leading water quality experts
- SRFs enhance and use naturally-occurring biological processes in former mining areas that have been backfilled with rock and saturated with water to remove selenium and nitrate
- Natural bacteria convert selenium into a solid form which remains stored in the SRF and nitrate to inert nitrogen gas which is safely released
- Treated water is pumped out of the SRF and discharged



#### Teck

### Water Treatment Improving Water Quality

- Three operational facilities
  - Fording River South
  - West Line Creek
  - Elkview Saturated Rock Fill
- Fording River North SRF approaching completion in 2022
- New treatment coming online every year for the next five years to 8x more capacity by 2027
- Continued projected improvements in water quality as facilities come online 2022 & will reach 142,500 cubic meters per day by 2027

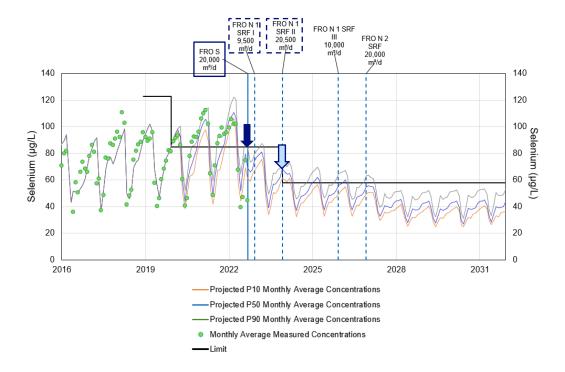


#### Teck

### Progressing to Stabilize and Reduce the Selenium Trend

#### Fording River Compliance Point (FR\_FRABCH) monitored data and projected improvements

- Fording River South treatment facility ramping-up to capacity of 20,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d by end 2022
- Notable improvements in measured selenium and nitrate concentrations
- With addition of 30,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d in 2023 projected further step change in improving water quality



## Progressing Towards Our Goal of Mining Without Water Treatment By ~2040

#### **Tank Based Water Treatment**

#### **Saturated Rock Fills**

#### **Source Control**



### Water Treatment Facilities Update

Colin Miller, P. Eng Program Director, Water Quality & Projects





### West Line Creek Operations

#### Treating 7.5 million litres of water per day



### **Elkview Operations**

#### Treating 20 million litres of water per day



### **Fording River Operations**

#### Fording River South ramping-up to treat 20 million litres of water per day



### Fording River North Saturated Rock Fill constructed to treat 9.5 million litres of water



### Fording River Operations

Fording River North Saturated Rock Fill Phase 2 under construction to treat 20.5 million litres of water per day



### **Progressing Treatment for Calcite**

Operating calcite 'anti-scalant based' treatment facilities



### Questions?

# Water and Aquatic Health Monitoring

Cait Good, R.P. Bio. Senior Lead, Aquatic Sciences





### **Aquatic Monitoring Programs**

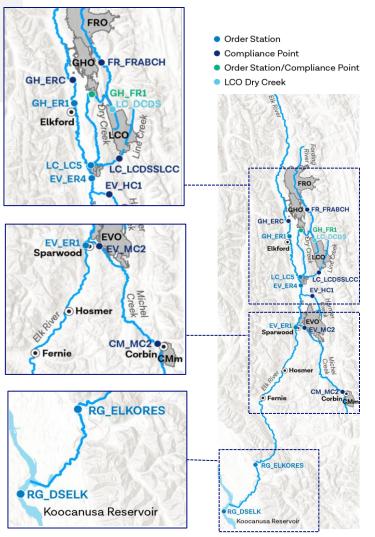
- 150 permitted surface water quality stations sampled monthly (weekly during freshet)
- There are 7 compliance points and 7 order stations with water quality limits and objectives
- Over 100 biological sampling areas in the Elk Valley watershed including the Koocanusa Reservoir
- Integrate information from all monitoring programs into the Regional Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program, including water, sediment, and aquatic biota (algae, bugs, fish, amphibians)

Examples of current monitoring working groups

Environmental Monitoring Committee

Teck

- Koocanusa Monitoring & Research Working Group
- Elk River Watershed Collaborative Monitoring Working Group (facilitated by the Elk River Alliance)



### **Compliance Summary**

#### Year-on-Year Compliance at Order Stations & Compliance Points

Locations			S	eleniu	m			Nitrate								Sulfate							Cadmium						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
GH_FR1*	-	-	-	-	-	83%	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	58%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
LC_LC5	-	-	-	-	-	100%	75%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
GH_ER1	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
EV_ER4	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	83%	-	-	-	-	-	92%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
EV_ER1	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	-	-	-	-	100%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
RG_ELKORES	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	-	-	-	-	-	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
RG_DSELK	100%	100%	100%	89%	100%	100%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	

#### Order Stations - % of monthly average concentrations below site performance objectives

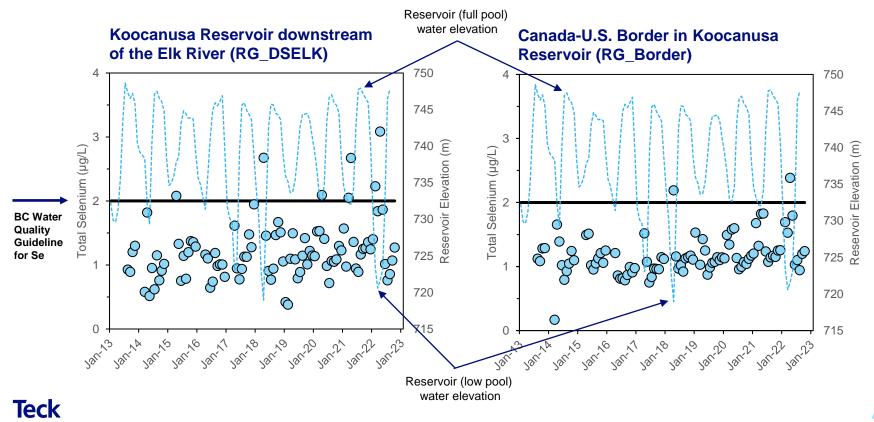
\* GH\_FR1 is both an order station and a compliance point.

#### Compliance Points - % of monthly average concentrations below permit limits

Locations			5	eleniur	n			Nitrate								Sulfate								Cadmium						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	<b>2021</b>		
FRO Compliance Point <sup>a</sup>	73%	75%	55%	42%	67%	42%	34%	100%	83%	100%	75%	83%	83%	27%	73%	83%	82%	50%	67%	92%	94%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		
GH_FR1*	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	83%	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	58%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		
GH_ERC	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		
LC_LCDSSLCC	100%	100%	75%	50%	100%	100%	100%	75%	25%	8%	8%	42%	25%	25%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		
EV_HC1	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		
EV_MC2	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		
CM_MC2	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	92%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		

<sup>a</sup> FR\_FRCP1 was the FRO compliance point from January 1 to March 10, 2021 and FR\_FRABCH was the FRO compliance point from March 11, 2021 onward; this compliance record reflects the weighted average for both locations. \* GH\_FR1 is both an order station and a compliance point.

## Water Quality Monitoring Results (Total Se) in Koocanusa at RG\_DSELK and RG\_Border



### Water Quality Early Warning Triggers

- Developed as part of Teck's Adaptive Management Plan
- Provide early notification of unexpected potential increases in water quality concentrations that may require a management response
- Developed for the four order constituents (selenium, nitrate, sulphate, and cadmium) plus twelve other mining-related constituents
- We screen data against the early warning triggers at compliance points and order stations quarterly and annually, and results are provided in both our quarterly and annual water quality reports



### **Benthic Invertebrate Sampling**

- Benthic invertebrates are organisms that live on the bottom of the water body (or in rocks or sediment) and are an important food source for fish, amphibians and aquatic-dependent birds
- Methods for monitoring benthic invertebrates are well developed and standardized
- Monitor benthic invertebrates to understand concentrations of selenium in tissue as an indicator for potential risk to consumers



### 2021 Benthic Invertebrate Tissue (BIT) Chemistry

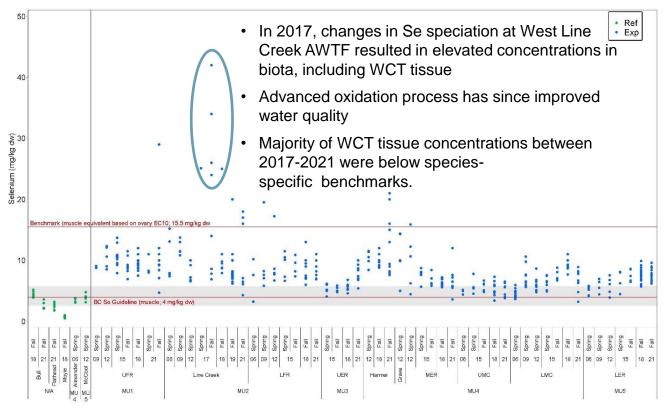
- Over 900+ benthic tissue samples were collected in 2021 to support local and regional scale monitoring questions
- In 2021, the majority of BIT selenium concentrations were within the normal range for reference areas and below ecological benchmarks for effects
- In 2021, mainstem concentrations majority of samples below ecological benchmarks for effects
- Some 2021 data in tributaries indicates higher selenium concentrations immediately downstream of sediment ponds; these localized areas have focused monitoring programs and plans are being developed for treatment and mitigation





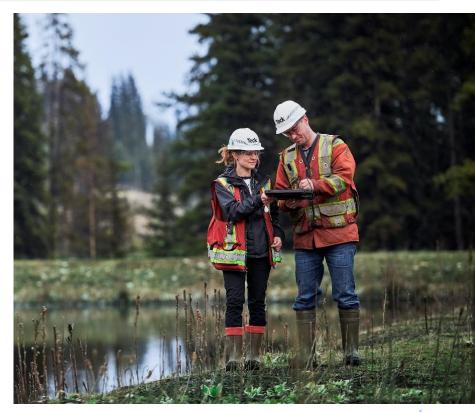
### Tissue Selenium in Westslope Cutthroat Trout (WCT)

- WCT muscle samples are collected every three years under the RAEMP
- In 2021, the majority of selenium concentrations in WCT tissue in the Elk Valley were below the species-specific benchmark (effects threshold)



### **Integrated Monitoring Results**

- Most of the watershed (>90% of flowing habitat) appears to be healthy and stable with no indication of adverse effects to invertebrates or risk to fish
- A few areas had higher than expected benthic invertebrate tissue selenium concentrations and further evaluation is underway
- Localized changes are not widespread, and are being monitored in more detail through focused programs
- Integration and interpretation of aquatic monitoring results are presented in the Regional Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (RAEMP)



### Data Sharing: Opportunities for Public Access



#### **Research and Monitoring Reports:**

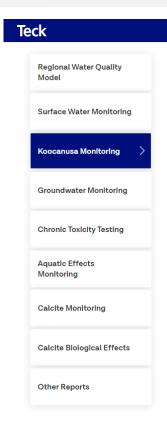
www.teck.com/sustainability/sustainabilitytopics/water/water-quality-in-the-elk-valley/researchand-monitoring-reports/



Environmental Monitoring System (EMS) Database (Ministry of Environment and Climate Strategy) https://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/ems/indexAction.do



Koocanusa Reservoir Data (WQX) Data Portal (USA Environmental Protection Agency) www.epa.gov/waterdata/water-quality-data



### Data Sharing: Opportunities for Public Access

#### Annual Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC) Public Meeting

- November 30, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. MST (online)
- Presentation and Q&A on Teck's monitoring results with EMC:
  - Independent aquatic scientist
  - BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV)
  - BC Interior Health (IH)
  - Representatives from Teck



### Questions?

# Fish Population Results & Recovery Program

Bronwen Lewis, R.P. Bio. Senior Lead, Fish Monitoring





### Fish Population Programs

Where we have come from and where we are going

- Isolated by waterfalls, high elevation, genetically pure-strain Westslope Cutthroat Trout (WCT)
- monitoring commenced in 2012, changed to annual program in 2019
- Upper Fording River and Grave-Harmer Creeks focus of current population studies
- Line Creek for WCT and Bull Trout for 20+ years
- Rigorous programs developed with input from KNC, Province, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)



## Fish Population Programs Methods and Assessment

## **Field Methods**

• Spring Redd surveys throughout the mainstem and tributaries

September Census

- Electrofishing
- Daytime downstream adult snorkeling
- Exploring methods to reduce fish handling in response to input from KNC
  - Nighttime upstream snorkeling
  - Nighttime dip-netting walks for fry
  - Underwater camera surveys

## **Analysis Methods**

- Improved population dynamics statistics
- More study sites for holistic watershed view
- WCT Population Model to predict changes
- Developing a movement study



## Upper Fording River – Population Monitoring Summary of Results

#### Population studies updated to understand the variation and uncertainty in population dynamics

Adult fish abundance (>200mm):

- 2019 ~330 adults
- 2020 ~440 adults
- 2021 ~1500 adults
- 2022 field observations indicate another positive increase
- 2021 Juvenile fish (under 200 mm; Age 1, 2, 3 and some 4 year olds) best estimate approximately 11,000 fish



# **Upper Fording River–Population Monitoring**



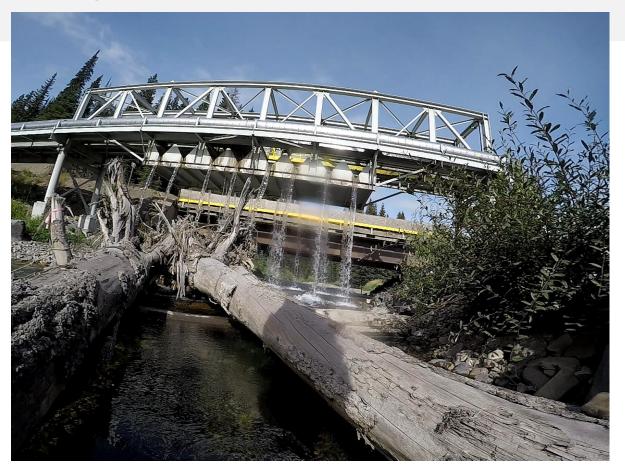
**In 2020** 500 mm 1714 g



**Recaptured In 2022** 508 mm 2045 g

Currently our largest fish in the database in the UFR in 2022

## Upper Fording River – September 2021





# **Upper Fording River Recovery Action Plan**

# Recovery Action Plan includes habitat projects over next 5 years

Habitat projects will address limiting factors of the system by:

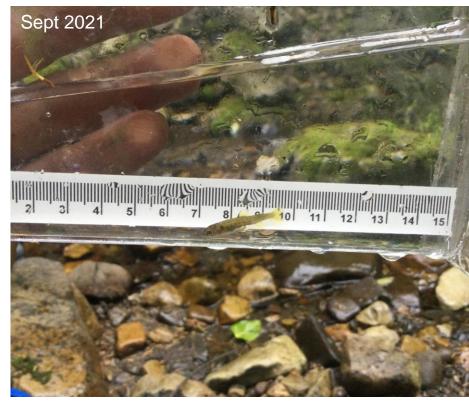
- Improving fish passage for multiple life stages
- Restoring the channel form and function
- Creating/rehabilitating tributary habitat
- Re-establishing riparian ecosystems

Improvements to habitat, water quantity and water quality will support recovery of the population



# **Grave-Harmer WCT Population**

- Another pure strain, isolated WCT population
- Small body form compared to Upper Fording River fish
- Relatively cold system with groundwater influences
- Young-of-Year fish are small, fish are also slightly smaller in Harmer Creek than Grave Creek
- Population experienced reduced juvenile recruitment success from 2017-2019
- In 2020 and 2021 recruitment was successful
- Evaluation of Cause process also initiated, and report will be available when completed
- Recovery Program for Grave-Harmer in planning stage



# Questions?

# Research & Development

Liz Karbashewski, PhD Manager, Research & Development





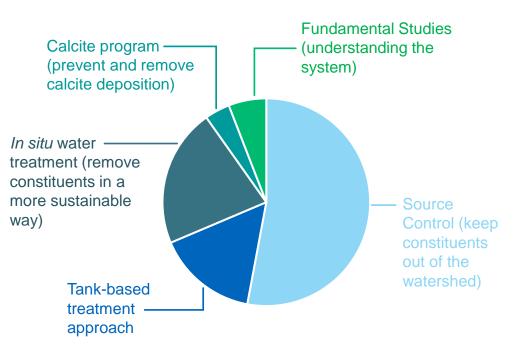
# Broad Research and Development Portfolio

More than 20 projects across five programs planned for 2023

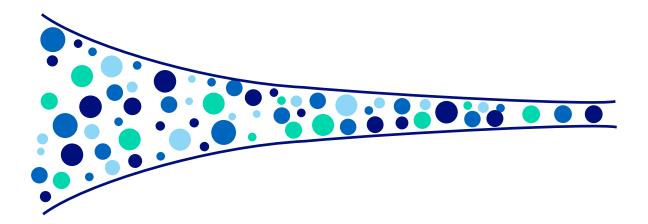
Investment shifting to manage constituents more sustainably and at source where possible

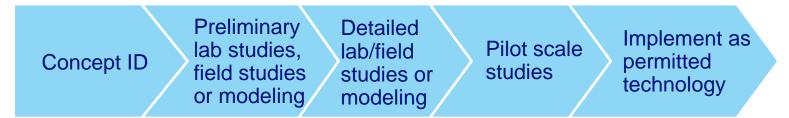
Research program designed to address:

- Compliance
- Opportunity to improve sustainability
- Understanding system with respect to predicted water quality and levers that affect it.

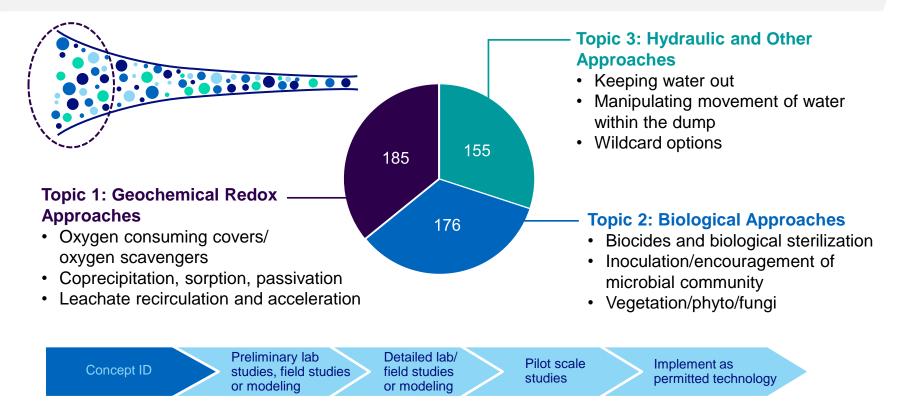


## **Teck Coal Research and Development Process**



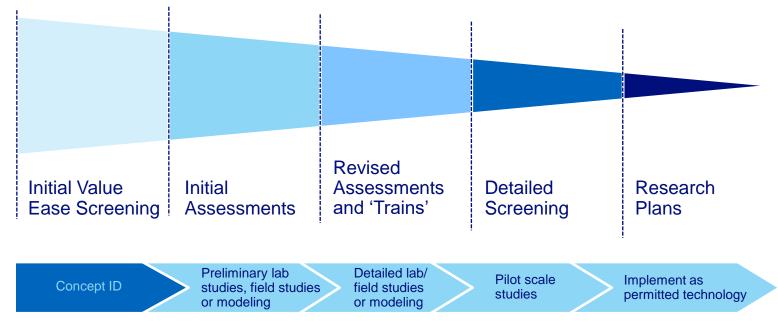


## Source control options for legacy waste Ideation sessions over the course of the summer generated 500 ideas



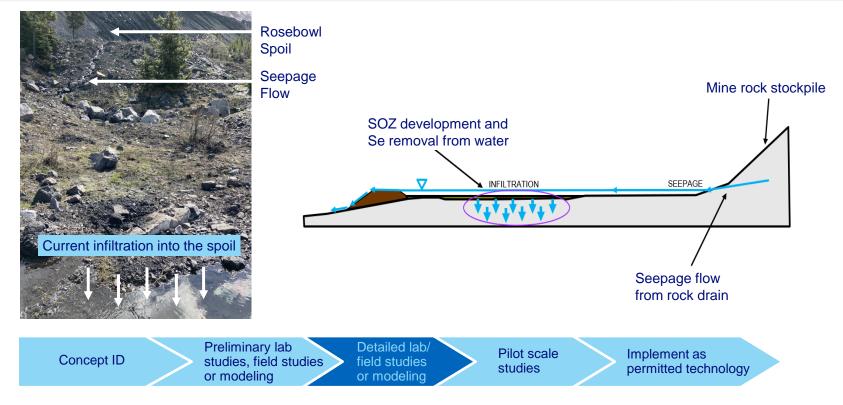
## Source Control Options For Legacy Waste

Teck will be completing a screening exercise to push ideas along the development pipeline, similar to what was done in 2019-2020.

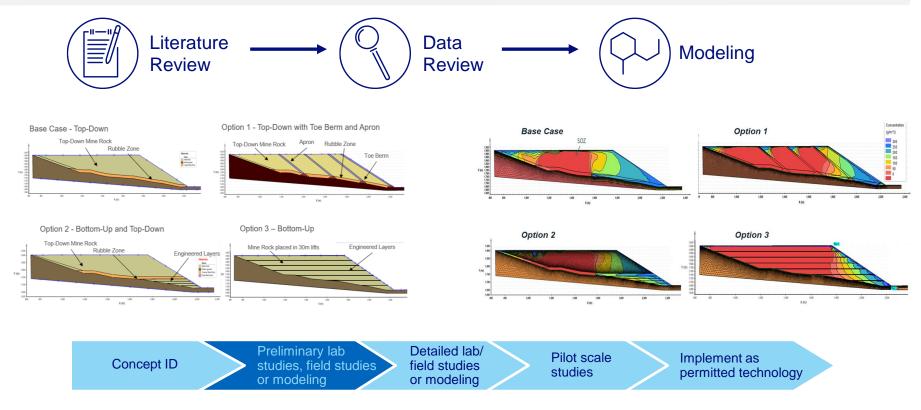


# Source control options for legacy waste

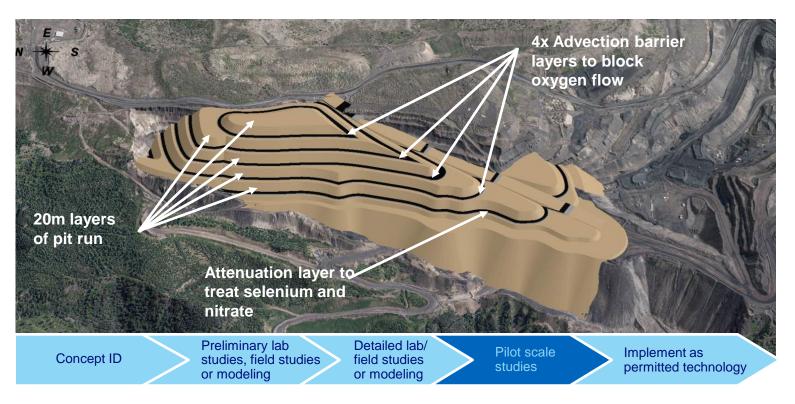
Infiltration gallery project going to the field in 2022 at small scale



## Source Control Options For End-dumped Waste



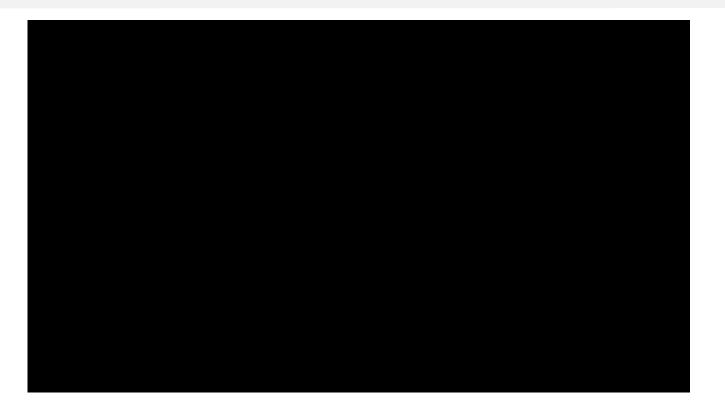
## Source control options for bottom-up placed waste Cedar North Suboxic Zone construction complete, last lift installed in October



## Cedar North Suboxic Zone Trial Attenuation Layer Construction



## Video Footage of Cedar North Construction



# Questions?

# Stay In Touch

#### Have additional questions about tonight's presentation?

Please email feedbackteckcoal@teck.com

To find Teck's reports on water quality, please visit www.teck.com/elkvalley



## To provide feedback about Teck's Elk Valley Operations:

Phone: 1.855.806.6854 Email: feedbackteckcoal@teck.com Visit the Communities Office 116 Centennial Square



