

Two representatives of Osisko Metals made a presentation to citizens in order to follow up on the activities carried out since the beginning of the year and to present those to come in the coming months. About 80 people, mostly from Murdochville, were present. The topics covered were:

Definition and exploration drilling work:

The project is still in the exploration phase. Definition drilling aims to define the copper resources still present in the ground. It is expected that approximately 120 definition holes for 110,000 metres will be completed in 2025 and currently, 43 holes have been completed, totaling 31,509 metres. Drilling is mainly concentrated on Copper Mountain. As for exploration drilling outside the mining concession, a total of 26 holes for 10,000 metres was planned for 2025. There are now 23 holes for 9,000 metres planned, of which 2 holes have already been drilled. The other drilling will be done between the end of July and the end of September.



Sound level meters and mitigation measures:

Three sound level meters have been installed in the city: two on Curés Allard Street located at the foot of Mount Copper and one at the Osisko Metals office located on 4th Street. Sound level meters indicate that the current noise level varies depending on the location of the drills and weather conditions. Although noise levels are acceptable most of the time, there are still periods when the level is too high. The team continues to work to put in place effective measures to reduce noise.

One of the mitigation measures is the installation of noise barriers on the drills and a system to limit engine noise. This equipment makes working conditions difficult for drillers because of the heat that remains inside the drill. In addition, several modifications must be made to the drills to make the systems efficient. The team is actively working to resolve these issues and encourages citizens to report any noise-related discomfort, if any, to Osisko Metals staff.

Dewatering of the Copper pit:

A committee composed of members representing various organizations has been in place since December 2023. A visit to the site was organized with the members of the committee to allow them to visualize the extent of the work related to the dewatering. Among these, the water quality of the pool must be improved to protect the aquatic environment, including the salmon of the York River. Five researchers, specialized in fish ecotoxicity and ecology, from the Institut National de Recherche Scientifique (INRS) are supporting Osisko Metals in this project. Several laboratory tests are being carried out to identify an effective method of water treatment and to develop the best scenarios for emptying the pit.



Inventories of fauna and flora:

Inventories of the avifauna are underway, and recorders have been installed in several places on the territory to identify birds that are passing through or colonizing the different habitats. Particular attention is paid to species with a special status. The loggers identified two status species, including the Bicknell's Thrush and the Common Nighthawk. Work plans are being prepared to cover inventories of terrestrial (vegetation, wetlands) and aquatic (rivers, lakes, water bodies, fish and fish habitat) environments for 2025. These inventories will provide a better understanding of the territory and help plan the location of the project's infrastructure.

Annual Inspection and Site Safety

An annual inspection was held in May, where a group of engineers inspected the site to ensure the stability of the dikes and ditches and the proper flow of water. Their visit showed that the site is in good condition. The management of beavers, who build dams, must be done according to protocols, but no issues have been reported on the Gaspé Mines site. The site is well restored in accordance with government requirements and best practices.

Meetings with the population

Child Safety: In response to concerns about child safety (traffic, playing in the forest at the foot of Copper Mountain), site visits were organized for students from Les Prospecteurs de Murdochville School. The children were equipped (jacket, helmet, goggles) and made aware of the risks around a construction site, machinery and the importance of staying away from drills in operation. They were able to discover the equipment and trades related to mineral exploration (geologist, machinery operator, driller, technician) in a safe environment, which also made workers aware of the need to reduce their speed for the safety of children when they travel by vehicle on the streets of the city.

Meetings with seniors: A presentation was made at the FADOQ offices in Murdochville, followed by a visit to the site where about fifty seniors responded to our invitation. These meetings were rich in exchanges and emotions, allowing the elders, who built the town and the mine, to share their stories and visualize the evolution of the site. Many had not seen the site since the closure and some were setting foot there for the first time. The view from the Needle Mountain platform was greatly appreciated. Thank you to the seniors for welcoming the Osisko Metals team so warmly.



Murdochville Citizen Visits: 75 people participated in the citizen visits, allowing them to satisfy their curiosity and understand the reasons for the security measures put in place by Osisko Metals. The visit allowed citizens to meet geologists, see the site from the Needle Mountain platform and get up close and personal with the Copper Pit. Other visits are planned for the citizens of Murdochville who wish to discover their "backyard".



Photos: courtesy of Chrystelle Quintin

Communication: The Mines Gaspé office is located at 632 4th Street and is open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with staff on site. Citizens can also contact the team by email or phone. Nathalie Lavoie is the main point of contact for any questions, concerns or to register for future visits.

Pour joindre l'équipe de Mines Gaspé — Métaux Osisko :

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