

# **Rehabilitating the East Tailings Management Area - Lynn Lake, Manitoba**

## **The Company Perspective**

- Background to Company involvement
- Events leading to full engagement
- Company/Province Agreement
- Site Management Plan
- Present status & issues
- Lessons learned

- Sherritt Gordon liabilities inherited by Viridian Inc.
- Viridian acquired by Agrium in 1997
- Full extent of liability unknown at time of acquisition
- Considerable paper research required
- Uncertainty about obligations remained

# Lead-up to Full Engagement

- Site not licensed by Manitoba
- Initial focus on liability issues
- Slow startup of discussions
- Memorandum of Understanding as first step
- Federal warning letter focuses attention

# Viridian-Manitoba Agreement

- ❑ Trust building as site characterization proceeds
- ❑ Outline of mitigation emerges
- ❑ “Without Prejudice” Agreement:
  - Prepare Site Rehabilitation Plan
  - Share costs equally
  - Liability release if terms met
  - Dispute resolution mechanisms
  - Rough costs for final solution

- States the Plan's objectives
- Describes current understanding of site dynamics & environmental implications
- Identifies potential mitigation options
- Outlines process for evaluating options
- Commitment to on-going consultation
- Presents short-term management plan
- Sets out process leading to final plan
- Identifies target date for completion

2 field seasons under management plan

Enhanced understanding of:

- Site dynamics
- Environmental inter-action
- Efficacy & feasibility of mitigation measures
- Intervention costs
- Achievable environmental targets

Finalize long-term Site Management Plan

- Environmental targets
- Regulatory uncertainty
- Community health concerns
- First Nations interests & concerns
- Long-term site maintenance & liability

# Corporate Lessons Learned

- Trust building important - takes time
- More positive approach by government
- Communication critical on many levels
- Look before you leap - study the site & understand the processes
- Recognize the risks - no guarantees
- Understand your partner's circumstances

- Not going fast enough
- Some issues ignored
- Continued hopes for future (mining) development
- Grudging acceptance of rationale for studying & pilot tests first
- Maximize local benefits
- Explore every opportunity
- Community pride - a shrinking but not dying community