



Is it spring yet?

We hope this update finds you warm and healthy, as we come to the end of another cold Saskatchewan winter. The ongoing pandemic has challenged and touched everyone, while changing the way we work and communicate with our communities and stakeholders. We have not been able to see you in person but have continued to reach out online and by phone to keep you informed of our activities.

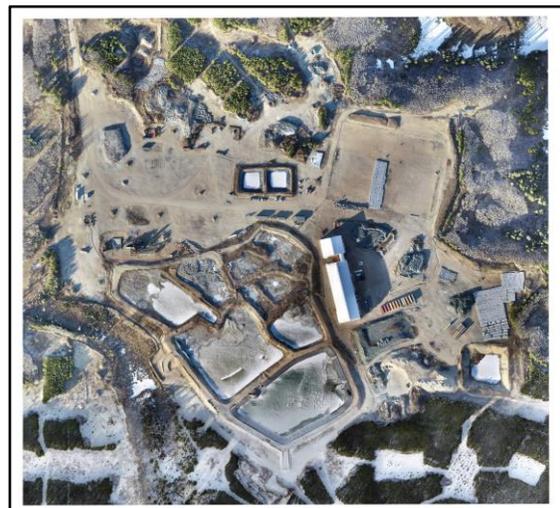
To be added to our distribution list, please email your name to: peter.dodson@riotinto.com.

Site Update

We are very pleased to inform that Rio Tinto Exploration Canada (RTEC) has now completed the processing and diamond recovery and has received all recovery results from the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) on the samples previously taken from the 10 cutter holes completed in 2019 on the Star site. The bulk sampling processing ran from April to December 2020 and the results have met the objective of the sampling program, which was to improve confidence in the grade of the Star site.

Additionally, a small geotechnical drilling program at Orion North ran earlier this year (Jan - Feb 2021) as part of the Orbit program. The program was designed to collect some physical properties of the overburden (sand, clay, and till) and of the kimberlite. Data collected was to further our knowledge of the surrounding geotechnical properties to feed into the project study.

With bulk sample processing at the Star kimberlite complete, the site is now on standby as we consider our options. Currently there is a small crew looking after the camp which includes: security personnel to ensure safety of various sites, a few Nuna staff to fuel light towers/generators and also to look after the Bauer equipment, and staff monitoring the Bulk Sample Plant (BSP) to ensure it doesn't deteriorate while on standby.



The FalCon project is located within Treaty 6 territory and homeland of the Métis.

As for the remainder of 2021? We have now acquired substantial data on the site, and we are taking the time to properly understand and assess the options for future work. We expect to know more about plans for any future work later this year. As always, we will keep the community informed of our plans as they develop.



The geology at FalCon is challenging, requiring highly customized equipment and technology.

\$10.8M

In 2020, we spent 10.8 million on local suppliers, or about 33% of our total site spend. This included contracts for road maintenance and site security.

40%

Nearly 40% of our employees are from the local area, and 25% from local Indigenous groups. Local refers to an approximate 60-kilometre radius from site. Over 80% of our workforce is from Saskatchewan.

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FAQs

Is the mine going ahead?

We remain in an advanced exploration phase. We are continuing to study the technical, economic, social, cultural and environmental context of this area in order to evaluate the options for a viable future mine. These studies are still in early stages and our focus remains on investigating design options for FalCon. Rio Tinto has significant experience in assessing potential development options using this same process - including the successful diamond mines Diavik and Argyle.

What does standby mean?

It means that, at the moment, we are not conducting any bulk sampling or processing at the Falcon project site but are monitoring and maintaining the site until a decision is made on future work. There is a small crew at site providing security to keep the lights on and the equipment safe. We are using this time to consider options for further work.

Can we expect more jobs in 2021?

At the moment, no. With a reduced schedule for the year, we do not anticipate any new jobs on site.

What is the Orbit program?

The FalCon Orbit program looks after regional exploration including completing geological assessment work on all the kimberlites other than Star and Orion South sites. The Orbit team's goal is to evaluate the potential of these other known kimberlites as well as discover new kimberlites in the region.

Other than Orion North, what's happening with the Orbit program for 2021?

We have applied to the Ministry of Environment for approval to explore an area outside of the Fort à la Corne forest. This area is north of the forest, and east of Birchbark Lake. We are aiming to conduct a helicopter drill program in late summer/early Fall.

What happens to the diamonds that you dig up during exploration?

Diamonds recovered during exploration are the property of the Crown. They are kept in a secure facility and cannot be traded or sold. RTEC acts purely as a custodian of these stones.

What is the status of the legal claim by Star Diamond Corporation (Star Diamond)?

We do not comment on the ongoing legal process. RTEC continues to defend its work on this project and to involve Star Diamond in the consideration of information generated by RTEC so far.