



## Managing Drill Core from Mineral Exploration

Orano Canada and its predecessor companies have been exploring in northern Saskatchewan since 1964. Most of our exploration is done in the Athabasca Basin where the world's largest high-grade uranium deposits have been found. Part of our work includes drilling to gather sample cores that are analysed to understand the rock beneath the surface. Orano ensures that core from our drilling activities is safely stored in well maintained facilities and that the environment is protected.



**Q:**

**Why are exploration cores kept?**

**A:**

Drill core is a record of what's below the surface that we often come back to as part of continuing exploration work. Access to existing drill core minimizes environmental impact by avoiding the need for additional drilling to update geological information or re-explore a site. Orano Canada's partners may also need access to core as proof of exploration activities.

**Q:**

**Where are the cores kept?**

**A:**

Core is stored at surface on or near the mineral claim or lease as required by provincial regulation. Storage areas may be fenced or signed to inform people of any potential hazard.

**Q:**

**How should core be stored?**

**A:**

Core must be stored in a manner approved by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment:

- In core boxes with weatherproof labels
- Cross stacked or in core racks with a roof covering the upper layer to prevent runoff
- In a clean, well-maintained condition.







**Q:**

**Is core safe?**

**A:**

Core is typically non-hazardous with no environmental impact. Traditional land uses are safe in areas where drill core is stored. A small amount of core contains uranium which can release radiation. Radiation levels of core storage areas must meet the decommissioning requirements set by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment. That is, average gamma levels measured at one metre from surface of a storage area should be below 1.0 microsieverts per hour ( $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$ ).

**Q:**

**Who is responsible for the core?**

**A:**

The operator is responsible for all core drilled on a property from the date they acquire it. If the property is sold or reassigned, the new operator is responsible for all core on the site. Operators are required to maintain, or if necessary upgrade, core racks that pre-date their involvement.



## For more information, contact

**Orano Canada Inc.**

100-833 45th Street West

Saskatoon, SK S7L 5X2

Phone: 306-343-4500

Email: [OC-publicrelations@orano.group](mailto:OC-publicrelations@orano.group)

[www.oranocanada.com](http://www.oranocanada.com)

**Ministry of Energy and Resources**

Saskatchewan Geological Survey

Phone: 306-787-1160

