

New Gold Rainy River Mine

**Environmental Assessment
Compliance Report
Reporting Period
January to December 2018**

Per Provincial Environmental
Assessment
Notice of Approval Condition 5
EA 05-09-02/EAIMS 13102

And

Per Federal Environmental Assessment
Decision Statement Condition 2.3



**BINDER 1 OF 2
MARCH 31, 2019
Version 1**

newgoldTM Rainy River

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Figure 1 November Sunrise over the Mill 2018

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Executive Summary

The 2018 Annual Compliance Report covers the reporting period from January 1st to December 31st, 2018 for the New Gold Inc. (New Gold) Rainy River Mine.

The site is located in Chapple Township, approximately 65 kilometers northwest of Fort Frances in northwestern Ontario. In October 2017 the Project transitioned from its construction phase to an operational phase.

To date Rainy River Mine is an operational open pit mine designed to produce 325,000 ounces of gold annually. New Gold intends to pursue the opportunity to process higher grade ounces in the early years of production, while stockpiling lower grades for processing towards the end of the mine life, with the intent of increasing cash flow and enhancing project economics.

The 2018 Rainy River Mine Environmental Assessment Compliance Report demonstrates New Gold's commitment to environmental performance and compliance with the Federal Environmental Assessment Decision Statement and in addition to satisfying reporting requirements for the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

This document has been created to meet the requirements of;

Provincial Environmental Assessment, Notice of Approval Condition 5 EA 05-09-02/EAIMS 13102; and the Federal Environmental Assessment Decision Statement Condition 2.3.

Key areas discussed in this report are; indigenous and community consultation, project development, reclamation activities, protection of fish and wildlife, migratory birds, health of indigenous peoples, site archaeology, heritage and cultural resources. This document also contains a summary of monitoring and research activities associated with water and air quality as well as wildlife and aquatic monitoring.



Figure 2 Elk in Field on HWY 617 January 4th, 2018

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Acronyms

ABA	Acid Based Accounting
BMA	Bear Management Area
CEAA	Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
CMP	Compliance Monitoring Plan
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
DMBPP	Dust Management Best Practice Plan
EA	Environmental Assessment
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
ECA	Environmental Compliance Approval
EEM	Environmental Effects Monitoring
EMRS	East Mine Rock Stockpile
ERT	Emergency Response Team
ENDM	Ministry of Energy of Northern Development and Mines
FMP	Follow-up Monitoring Plan
LRIA	Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act
MDMER	Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulation
MNRF	Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
MECP	Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
MRP	Mine Rock Pond
MTCS	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
NG	New Gold
PTTW	Permit to Take Water
PWQO	Provincial Water Quality Objectives
RRM	Rainy River Mine
RRP	Rainy River Project
SAR	Species at Risk
SDS	Safety Data Sheets
TK/TLU	Traditional Knowledge/Traditional Land Use
TMA	Tailings Management Area
WMP	Water Management Pond
WMRS	West Mine Rock Stockpile
XRD	X-Ray Diffraction

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SECTION 1.0

NEW GOLD RAINY RIVER MINE

MINE UPDATE



Figure 3 Open Pit Mine Summer 2018

1.0 Mine Update

The Rainy River Mine (RRM) site is located in the Township of Chapple, approximately 65 kilometers, Northwest of Fort Frances in Northwestern Ontario. Owned and operated by New Gold Inc (New Gold). Physical works related to the RRM consists primarily of:

- Open pit (current),
- Overburden, mine rock and low-grade ore stockpiles,
- Primary crusher and process plant (completed 2018),
- Tailings management area,
- 230 kilovolt transmission line (completed 2016),
- Relocation of a portion of gravel-surfaced Highway 600 (completed 2016), and
- Associated infrastructure, buildings and facilities, supported by related pipeline and power infrastructure as required.

Construction of the RRM began in February 2015 after the Environmental Assessment (EA) process was completed, the Closure Plan was filed and the environmental approvals necessary for the work proposed were obtained.

During 2018, construction continued with the completion and commissioning of Cell 3 of the Tailings Management Area.

The subsections that follow provide an overview of the activities conducted onsite during 2018.

1.1 Health and Safety

Health and Safety is a primary focus of the RRM. Table 1 outlines the project statistics from 2015 to 2018.

Table 1: Rainy River Mine Safety Statistics

Description	2015	2016	2017	2018
Lost Time Incidents	0	1	2	3
Hours Worked on Project	1,265,699	2,899,056	3,726,628	2 586 258
Site Health, Safety and Environmental Orientations completed	2500	3200	4328	2719

2018 Highlights and activities within the Health and Safety Department include;

- Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) of 0.95 for 2018 represent a major improvement over 2.80 in 2017.
- There was 2,127,883 Lost Time Injury (LTI) Free Hours for the site.
- New fully dedicated Emergency Response Coordinator
- New fully dedicated Security Coordinator
- Underground rescue training started in 2018



Figure 4 Occupational health sampling by maintenance wash trailers

1.2 Construction

2018 marked the fourth year of construction on the RRM. During 2018 the follow projects were completed:

- TMA North Dam and Cell 2 Dam
- North Dam seepage collection pond and ditch
- TMA Cell 2 Dam Spillway
- TMA South Dam to Cell 3 Elevation
- Sediment Ponds 1 & 2
- Water Discharge Pond
- West Creek Diversion Culvert Removal Project and Marr Creek Tie-in
- Crushing of Zone 5 Aggregate for TMA
- Started the Water Treatment Train including BCR #1
- Cell 2 tailings and TMA reclaim pipelines
- Substantial completion of the TMA wildlife exclusion barrier

Construction activities in the TMA for 2019 will include the completion of Cell 3 seepage collection system and tailing pipeline, raises and/or extensions of North, West and South Dams, completion of reptile exclusion barrier on the wildlife exclusion fence, as well as completion of the Phase 1 Water Treatment Train.



Figure 5 Exclusion fence and reptile barrier

1.3 Mine Operations

Open pit operations continued in Phase 1, which progressed down to the 230 elevation. In addition, development of Phase 2 of the open pit progressed to the 300 elevation. The mine also delivered construction material(rock) to the TMA to support construction of the dams.



Figure 6 Southern facing aerial view of the open pit mine winter 2018

1.4 Human Resources

As of December 31, 2018, there were 682 employees of New Gold at RRM. In December 2017 there were 584 employees. During the year we hired 240 employees and off-boarded 142 employees for an overall increase of 98 employees. Of the 682 employees;

- 73% were hired from the Rainy River District
- 2% were hired from the Kenora District
- 15% were hired from other locations in Ontario
- 8% were hired from Provinces or Territories within Canada, other than Ontario
- 2% were hired from outside of Canada
- 26% of New Gold employees at RRM self-identified as Indigenous, with the majority from local communities or affiliations.
- 14.4% of New Gold employees at RRM are female

The majority of employees work within the mine department, followed by maintenance, mill, and general operations departments (including finance, supply chain, environment, human resources, community and health and safety).

In 2018 we continued our recruitment efforts in the local communities conducting career fairs and school visits.

We introduced the Line of Progression (LOP) for production employees in the Mine, Mill, Maintenance, and Construction. The LOP outlines the training requirements and compensation structure of all of our production positions. We also introduced an updated employee manual updating our employee related policies and procedures.

New training software was implemented that maintains a centralized data base for all of employee training records.

In 2019, New Gold will continue to focus on hiring from local communities and developing our team members.



Figure 8 New Gold employee by a drill



Figure 7 Mill operators

Engagement of neighbour, Indigenous communities, local municipalities and employees remained a priority for New Gold RRM in 2018. In New Gold's first full year of commercial production, tours of the site and facilities continued to be very popular. Tours were provided to the general public, business partners, school groups, neighbour, Indigenous community members and to families of employees.

New Gold RRM also distributed two newsletters throughout the local communities, mailed locally and emailed to communities outside of the local mail distribution. New Gold also participated in the Christmas Parade in Fort Frances, Literacy Day at Donald Young School, and presentations to other local schools. New Gold hosted annual Spring and Fall Ceremonies at the site; officiants were Elder Laura Horton at the Spring Ceremony and Elder Alfred Oshie at the Fall Ceremony. Both ceremonies were attended by both New Gold employees and members of local Indigenous communities.

New Gold RRM has various existing partnerships with Indigenous groups and continued to engage through Participation and implementation committee meetings, site visits, business development assistance, and participation in community events. The community team for Rainy River includes Community Coordinators, a Business Development Officer and a Commitments Supervisor.

New Gold is proud of the numerous sponsorships and donations it makes to local communities. New Gold RRM supports initiatives that focus on education, arts & culture, environment and health and wellness. In 2018, some of the sponsorships and donations by New Gold RRM included;

- Sponsorship of the Rainy Lake Concert Series;
- Support for the Emo fair grounds upgrades;
- Donations to local food banks;
- Support of new local bee yard;
- Donations to local community Pow Wows;
- Donation of speed awareness signs to the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls;
- Sponsorship of local hockey associations;
- Sponsorship of a youth summer program in the Township of Emo;
- Support to Indigenous Art Workshops;

New Gold RRM will continue to be responsive to communities, ensuring community members are engaged with New Gold.



Figure 10 Alex Pollard, Rick Neilson, Ty Stafford (new bee yard)



Figure 9 Karen Rustige, Gerry Race, Kris Tittlemier, Jerry O'Leary (Mayor SN-NF), Claude McKenzie (New Gold H&S Manager), Paul Van Belleghem (Speed awareness signs)

1.6 Environmental Update

During 2018, Rainy River Mine successfully completed first year of production. In keeping pace with site wide changes, the Environmental team continued to provide support and guidance to various operations and construction teams. In addition to providing site wide support, the team effectively met all monitoring reporting timelines and requirements.

In January, New Gold acquired a mobile bear trap, designed and approved by the MNR, to trap and transport bears. In February, the team rescued an orphaned bear cub, See Figure 11, discovered on site. The cub was treated for hypothermia by a local veterinarian then transported to a rehabilitation center in southern Ontario.



Figure 11 Orphaned bear cub

Critical submissions included an amendment and update of the environmental compliance construction and sewage works approvals including discharge criteria changes, spring freshet water management contingency plan, comprehensive site wide water balance and updated groundwater model, feasibility and design reports for flume and diversion dykes in the Pinewood River and PTTW amendments for dewatering aggregate operations.

In addition, an external compliance audit of the Environmental Management System was completed and a design for Phase 1 EMS/TSM implemented.

The Environmental team hosted several meetings with MNR, MEC, EMND, EC, CEAA and the Environmental Monitoring Board. Team members participated in consultation meetings with First Nations groups on ECA and Closure Plan Amendments and traditional knowledge. Selected team members participated in GIS and reclamation conferences.

In April, tasks completed included bird deterrent staking in high risk areas and submission of various applications for tree clearing in construction and infrastructure expansion areas.

Commissioning of the West Creek Diversion channel in 2017 provided a safe passage for fish to migrate through the site and into spawning grounds. During May of 2018, Environmental Team members spotted White Sucker fish spawning in several locations along the upper reaches of the West Creek Diversion channel (Figure 12).



Figure 12 White Sucker spawning May 2018

During July and August, New Gold Environmental group hosted Stewardship Youth Ranger groups from Atikokan and Fort Frances. Group members were involved with tree planting, identification of fish bearing waterbodies and removal of dilapidated erosion and sediment control fences.

From July to September, Environmental team members and First Nations Community members conducted several fish salvage operations from isolated ponds and pools before culverts were removed from the West Creek Diversion channel.

Reclamation of the former Tait Quarry was completed during the summer of 2018. Vegetation and trees were planted according to the reclamation plan design. This area will provide future habitat for Whip-por-will and become a part of the Whip-por-will management studies.

Team members participated in pilot plant testing on the use of biological reactors to treat tailings effluent, selected contractors and facilitated construction on the water treatment train.

The Environmental group provided continued support on the construction of the TMA wildlife exclusion fence, which was 80% completed during 2018. The remaining reptile barrier sections will be constructed during the spring of 2019.

From May to October, the Environment Department facilitated completion of the fieldwork portion for a Stage 4 archaeological study. This study was conducted over an area of cultural significance, previously identified during Stage 2 and 3 Archaeological studies. Under the Ontario Heritage Act, areas of cultural significance must be studied by a licensed archaeologist. Proposed development can proceed once the archaeologist has submitted a report to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) stating no further concerns with the area. A preliminary report was prepared and submitted to the MTCS by the consultant archaeologist performing the study, releasing the area for development. Over the summer months, First Nations community members participated in the fieldwork and toured the site. Artifacts recovered include a quartz arrowhead (Figure 13) During 2019, all artifacts recovered will be catalogued and stored until their final location is determined.



Figure 13 Arrowhead discovered during summer excavation

During 2018, the GIS Team continued to manage and advance the internal New Gold Rainy River Web GIS System (NGRR GIS); a distributed client/server GIS environment that provides instant access to up to date geospatial information to all New Gold employees and registered consultants (users) via web GIS and mobile applications. In 2018 the team has been working on developing an updated backend database structure and migrating critical environmental and other data to an enterprise GIS SQL Server Geodatabase on site. End users of the GIS System can now consume as well as create and update data on the server directly using future services within web GIS applications.

As a part of an ongoing annual survey program, the GIS team facilitated the collection of high-resolution multispectral imagery in the spring and the fall of 2018 as well as a LiDAR topographic survey and an ultra-high-resolution aerial imagery survey of the entire site in early September 2018. This survey data was used to provide NGRR GIS users with most recent overview of the site as well as for analysis, monitoring, digitizing, modelling changes in the mine topography and updating the site hydrology network and the site road network. UAVs (drones) were also used to collect high resolution data of select target areas and used to create 3D models, flyovers and made available as ortho-imagery mosaic in NGRR GIS. The GIS team has also been working on a multitude of individual projects with the Environmental, Engineering, Mine Operations, Construction, Land Administration, Geology & Exploration and the Community teams and have continually been updating and maintaining the Land Tenure database, Infrastructure & Underground Utilities database, Site Clearing Plan, Site Layout progression model and other datasets.



Figure 14 Enviro/GIS crew UAV selfie.

As the Rainy River Mine advances, the Environmental Department continues to be successful in their search to find efficient and effective means for conducting required monitoring. This also includes incorporating new projects into the department's routine, to aid in future mine reclamation.

On top of the above projects being completed, the environmental team continues to monitor air quality, wildlife, water quality, waste and the environment. They inspect areas around site to ensure second containment is in place, light plants are in the appropriate directions, hazardous storage areas are being kept tidy, waste is properly segregated, dust is kept to a minimum, wildlife is unharmed, and many others. The environmental department is a support role to the entire mine site.



Figure 15 Sampling May 2018

1.7 Regulatory Update

In January 2015 both a Federal Environmental Assessment Decision Statement and a Provincial Environmental Assessment Notice of Approval were provided to New Gold for the RRM

Throughout 2015 to 2018 construction of dams, water diversion systems, roads, and commissioning of mining operations were advanced based on various permits and approvals granted by both the Federal and Provincial Governments.

Table 2 provides a summary of the environmental approvals related to the RRM.



Figure 16 Bobcat kitten

Table 2: Rainy River Mine - Environmental Permits and Approvals

Agency	Type	Number	Description	Comments
Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks	Permit to Take Water	7430-AYEN78	Renewed Tailings Management Area Construction	
		8101-AY8HT5	Renewed Construction Minor Takings	
		2558-AJ7HXF	Renewed Tait Quarry	
		1386-9VTP2H	Aggregate Sources (OC3, OC4, Roen)	
		7631-9VULMS	Mine Dewatering	
		8776-9W2QN3	Pinewood River	Expired November 30, 2018
		0040-9VUL6B	Tailings Management Area Construction	Expired May 8, 2018
		2133-9VUPVZ	Construction Minor Takings	Expired May 8, 2018
		3638-9VTNRM	Tait Quarry	Expired May 8, 2017
	Environmental Compliance Approval	5178-9TUPD9	Industrial Sewage	
		0412-A2LR4V	Air / Noise	Amended
		8567-9ZXG8U	Air / Noise	Superseded
		5781-9VJQ2J	Construction Phase / Tait Quarry	Expired May 8, 2018
		Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	Location, Plans and Specifications Approval <i>Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act</i>	FF-2017-03
FF-2017-02	Sediment Ponds			
FF-2017-01	West Creek Natural Channel Temporary Bypass			
FF-2016-02 FF-2016-02A	Culvert Crossing CPL15			
FF-2015-08	Culvert C15			
FF-2015-07	Pinewood River Intake / Outfall			
FF-2015-05 FF-2015-05A	Mine Rock Pond			
FF-2015-04 FF-2015-04A FF-2015-04B FF-2015-04C	TMA			
FF-2015-03 FF-2015-03A FF-2015-03B	Clark Creek Diversion			
FF-2015-02 FF-2015-02A FF-2015-02B	West Creek Diversion			
FF-2015-01	West Creek Diversion			
FF-2015-01	Temporary Culverts C2, C6, C8			
Work Permit/ Letter of Authority	FF11-2015/2016			Pinewood River Bridge Crossing
	FF6-2015/2016		East Access Road Construction Amendment	Expired May 30, 2016
<i>Public Lands Act</i>	FF2-2015/2016		East Access Road Construction	Expired May 30, 2016
<i>Endangered Species Act Permit</i>	FF-C-001-14		Permit Under 17(2)(c)	
Aggregate Resources Licence	626197		Laydown 4 Quarry	
	625851		Tait Quarry	Rehabilitated in 2018
Overlapping Forest Resource Licence Agreement	Agreement with Resolute Forest Products 2018-2019.			Expires March 31, 2019
Forest Resource Licence	553907, B12125, B12144			2018-2019
	553675, 553676, 553722, 553723, 553724, 553725		2017-2018	

Table 2: Rainy River Mine - Environmental Permits and Approvals

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry		553726, 553727, 553728, 553729, 553730, B12095, B12104		
		553386, 553481, 553482, 553500, 553501, 553533, 553534, 553535, 553514, 553517, 553531, 553532, 553541, 553592, 553593, 553594, 553595, 553596, 553597, 553598, 553676, 553675, B12057, B12071, B12072, B12077, B12078, B12083, B12086, B12090, B12095		2016-2017
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry		553212, 553213, 553214, 553223, 553224, 553225, 553226, 553227, 553271, 553272, 553145, B12011, B12013, B12014, B12032, B12033, B12039, B12040, B12052, B12053		2015-2016
		553037, 553038, 553039, B12008, B12009		2014-2015
		552762		2013-2014
		219198, 218658, 219196		2018-2019
Harvest Approval/ Authority to Haul		218246, 218247, 218452, 218453, 218454, 218456, 218457, 218458, 218459, 218460, 218475, 218248, 218450		2017-2018
		217396, 217645, 217646, 217682, 217683, 217766, 217767, 217772, 217387, 217712, 217718, 217762, 217763, 217662, 217663, 217717, 217719, 217760, 217771, 217781, 217888, 217889, 217890, 217891, 217892, 217893, 217894, 217895, 218246, 218247, 218248		2016-2017
		216310, 216366, 216367, 216557, 216880, 216881, 216822, 216823, 216833, 216836, 216838, 216882, 216883, 216884, 216885, 216886, 217018, 217019, 217020, 217021		2015-2016

Table 2: Rainy River Mine - Environmental Permits and Approvals

		216269, 216277, 216278, 216279, 216280		2014-2015	
		215455		2013-2014	
	Land Use Permit	1134-1003167	Transmission Line		
		1134-1003203	Four Safety Platforms		
		1134-1003160	Wood Storage Site	Expired January 31, 2016	
		1134-1003161	Wood Storage Site	Expired January 31, 2016	
		1134-1003162	Wood Storage Site	Expired January 31, 2016	
		1134-1003163	Wood Storage Site	Expired February 29, 2016	
	Fish & Wildlife Collection Approvals	1134-1003164	Wood Storage Site	Expired February 29, 2016	
		1089611	Licence to Collect Fish for Scientific Purposes	Expired December 31, 2018	
		1083746	Authorization to Trap and Transfer Black Bears 2017	Expired December 31, 2016	
		1080070	Wildlife Scientific Collectors Authorization - Turtle and Snake Relocation 2018	October 31 st 2016	
		1079341		Expired April 14, 2015	
		1089610	Wildlife Scientific Collectors Permit	Expired December 31, 2018	
1085813		Expired December 31, 2017			
1081168		Expired December 30, 2016			
1088198		Authorization to Trap and Transfer Black Bears	Expired December 30, 2018		
1081093	Authorization for Wildlife Interference	Expired September 30, 2015			
1079145		Expired April 30, 2018			
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency	Federal Decision Statement issued under Section 54 of Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012	Federal EA	90+ Federal EA Commitments		
Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks	Environmental Assessment Act Section 9 Notice of Approval to proceed with the Undertaking	Provincial EA	68 Provincial Commitments		
Environment Canada	Final EA Report Commitments Registry	EA Commitments	205 Commitments		
	Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations	Reporting Procedures for MMER			
Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Energy and Mines	Closure Plan		Contains Closure Plan Commitments Registry Filed by Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (February 23, 2015)		
Ontario Ministry of Transportation	Entrance Permit	13+ approvals			
	Encroachment Permit	14+ approvals			
	Land Use	11+ approvals			
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Authorization	15-HCAA-00039	Section 35(2)		
	Letter of Advice	KE-12-0963	Road Crossings		
	Letter	15-0045	Linear Structure		

Table 2: Rainy River Mine - Environmental Permits and Approvals

Table 2: Rainy River Mine - Environmental Permits and Approvals				
Transport Canada	Letter	15-0046	Blasting Zone	
	Clearance	ATS-15-16-00026521	Transmission Line - Aeronautic Obstruction Clearance	No lighting or marking required
	Letter	16-2664	Linear Structure	Renewal
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission	Nuclear Radiation Licence	15954-1-19.0	Nuclear Radiation Device License	
Ontario Energy Board	Electricity Wholesaler Licence	EW-2014-0371		
Municipality	Occupancy Permit	N16-08	Admin Building – Process Plant Site	