

## Case Study

# Reclaiming Value by Identifying Risks

### New Gold

### Rainy River Mine, ON, Canada

#### > Background

New Gold's Rainy river gold mine near Fort Frances, Ontario, is actively producing 250 thousand ounces of gold per year and is a major economic driver for the surrounding community. The mine will also generate low economic value rock to be stored in mine rock storage areas (MRSAs). While MRSAs can pose certain environmental risks, Okane has helped New Gold take a proactive approach to risk mitigation.

#### > Approach

Okane helped New Gold take a proactive approach to risk mitigation, developing a reclamation and closure plan guided by a Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA), resulting in a commitment to conduct cover system and revegetation trials on pilot scale MRSs. The revegetation trial was designed in partnership with local Indigenous communities. Four cover system amendments were evaluated in conjunction with nine vegetation prescriptions in a randomized complete block experiment.

#### > Client Benefit

Early results indicate good survivability of tree seedlings and clear treatment effects for erosion control. The risk-based approach will lead to focused studies that contribute directly to closure planning and provides the framework to clearly demonstrate alignment with stakeholder expectations.



**A lot of mines talk about what they are going to do in closure without ever proving it will work. We are happy to see New Gold is proving the concept with input from communities to make sure it will actually work as promised.**

**Integrated Mine Closure  
and Relinquishment Solutions**



Parizat, M. (2020). Rainy River Mine [Courtesy of Royal Gold]. CIM Magazine.

