

Appendix A
Annual Compliance Report
Condition Requirements
Condition 6

Condition 6: Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes

Condition 6.1

The Proponent shall provide access to private lands to Aboriginal groups for their current use of land, including hunting and plant harvesting.

Status: Ongoing

Supporting Analysis:

New Gold RRP provides access to private lands where it is safe to do so. On a regular basis, New Gold RRP also provides site tours to community members so they are familiar with the lands. For the 2016 deer tissue monitoring program, Aboriginal people were provided access to participate in the program.

Condition 6.2

The Proponent shall avoid use of herbicides along the transmission line corridor unless required to prevent fire hazards. The Proponent shall minimize the removal of non-woody vegetation within the transmission line corridor.

Status: Complete

Supporting Analysis:

Construction completion of the hydro line occurred in April 2016. All construction was completed during the winter season using pre-existing access to the corridor. Grubbing and removal of non-woody vegetation did not occur and some areas that were observed in the summer of 2016 showed excellent vegetation growth. Over the life of the project the line will be regularly inspected and if necessary vegetation that would impact the line may need to be managed.

At this time there is no need to manage vegetation along the line nor is it the intent of New Gold RRP's to use herbicide.

Project Name:

Rainy River
Project

Proponent:

New Gold Inc.

Decision
Statement
Issued:

Jan 12th 2015

CEARIS Ref
Number:

80007

Reporting Period:

2016

Condition 6.3

The Proponent shall, throughout all phases of the Designated Project, undertake progressive habitat restoration as per any requirements set by Ontario in the Mine Closure Plan for the Designated Project. Habitat restoration shall include:

Status: Ongoing

Supporting Analysis:

Refer to supporting analysis in conditions 6.3.1 to 6.3.2

Condition 6.3.1

A consideration of habitat types that support a diversity of wildlife species and traditional uses by Aboriginal peoples, including ungulates and furbearers, as well as native plant species previously collected at the Project Site for food and medicinal purposes; and

Status: Ongoing

Supporting Analysis:

During 2016 the project was in its second year of construction, and although some restoration has occurred it has been limited to planting of native grasses, cedar trees, white spruce, dogwood and willow. These species were chosen primarily to assist in stabilization and erosion control for the construction of the Clark, in Figure 1, and West Creek, in Figure 2, Diversion systems and are native species to the project site. As the project wraps up construction in 2017 there will a requirement for further restoration and an opportunity to incorporate plant species used for traditional uses by Aboriginal peoples.



Figure 1: Lower Clark Diversion Revegetation Growth, August 2016



Figure 2: Upper West Creek Diversion at Coir Log Revegetation Growth, August 2016

Condition 6.3.2

Separating and stockpiling removed organic rich material during construction (of open pit and during tailings dam stripping) for use to support revegetation and other reclamation activities.

Status: Ongoing

Supporting Analysis:

During the construction phase topsoil is stripped and salvaged to be used for future reclamation where topsoil is present and of sufficient quality. In 2016 the project advanced efforts on salvaging topsoil at the Water Management Pond, developed a strategy for salvaging topsoil from the Tailings Management Pond and Open Pit. During 2016 RRP coordinated a topsoil sampling program at future construction locations to assess the quality and quantity of topsoil. This information will be used for future reclamation planning.

Condition 6.4

The Proponent shall monitor habitat restoration to verify the success of revegetation efforts. Monitoring starts with construction and ends once habitat has been restored and proven effective.

Status: Ongoing

Supporting Analysis:

Habitat restoration efforts in 2016 primarily focused on the Clark and West Creek Diversion Systems, and localized disturbances used to support construction and sediment and erosion control.



Figure 3: Reseeding efforts, October 2016

Application of native seed mixes and planting of shrub species (willows and dogwood) commenced in spring during the optimal window and was ongoing into the fall. Ongoing monitoring was conducted through the growing season in 2016 to evaluate the success of revegetation efforts and natural recolonization by local vegetation species.

Information from this monitoring program was used to inform and establish reseeding priorities for the fall seeding program in 2016.

During the fall of 2016, the Stewardship Youth Rangers came onsite to relocate water plants, specifically cattails, from construction areas to the Stockpile Diversion system. The program was successful and approximately 300 cattails were relocated and planted.



Figure 4: Cattail relocation and planting, July 2016

Ongoing efforts to monitor habitat restoration are planned to be initiated in spring 2017, and continue throughout the growing season, to demonstrate success and overall effectiveness of these restored areas.

Condition 6.5

The Proponent shall restore access to the Project Site for the Aboriginal groups during the decommissioning phase, to the extent that such access is safe, for their traditional purposes.

Status: Not applicable at this time.

Supporting Analysis:

This condition is not relevant to the Construction Phase.

Condition 6.6

The proponent shall consult with the Aboriginal groups on the implementation of conditions 6.1, 6.4 and 6.5.

Status: Ongoing

Supporting Analysis:

Condition 6.1: Through negotiated agreements and in the Rainy River Project Aboriginal Consultation Plan (Version 2, February 2015), New Gold RRP has engaged Aboriginal groups on accessing New Gold RRP property.

Condition 6.4: Updates on habitat restoration and the success of revegetation efforts are provided during site tours, at Environmental Monitoring Board meetings, and at Impact Benefit and Participation Agreement communication meetings.

Condition 6.5: Not applicable during the construction phase.

Figures

Figure 1: Lower Clark Diversion Revegetation Growth, August 2016 2
Figure 2: Upper West Creek Diversion at Coir Log Revegetation Growth, August 2016..... 3
Figure 3: Reseeding efforts, October 2016 4
Figure 4: Cattail relocation and planting, July 2016..... 5

Supporting Documentation

Reference made to other conditions however no supporting documentation is required for this condition.