

Environmental control — Nugget Pond: from environmental assessment to complete compliance with environmental discharge criteria

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Safe and efficient production while maximizing the protection of the environment has been a goal and achievement of the Nugget Pond gold mine on the Baie Verte Peninsula, Newfoundland. Environmental issues were a top priority from the earliest planning stages. Tailings disposal and waste water control are the key environmental issues during the production period. All waste rock is being recycled underground as backfill. The tailings are subjected to the INCO-SO₂ air destruction process prior to being released to the tailings pond, where they are submerged; therefore, acid-

drainage will not be an issue. All outflow waters from the environmental control system are tested on a daily basis, and have been compliant with the operation's Environmental Certificate of Approval.

A reclamation plan has been established based on the guidelines in the Certificate of Approval to operate the mine and mill. Some reclamation, including tree planting, recycling and surface contouring has been completed even at this early stage of the operation.