OCEANAGOLD
WAIHI OPERATION

OceanaGold UPDATE

July 2022

Tailings Impoundments At Waihi – Part Three

In this update we conclude our series on the Tailings Storage Facilities (TSFs) at Waihi, with a focus on the ongoing monitoring while a TSF is active and the rehabilitation process at the end of its operational life. Previously we covered how our tailings impoundments are constructed to international best practices and how water is safely managed, monitored, and treated onsite.

If you missed Part One or Two, you can find them (or any of our past *'Updates'*) on the OceanaGold Waihi website at: www.waihigold.co.nz

CHECKS AND MONITORING

Who checks what we are doing? From site selection to construction, monitoring, and independent peer reviews by recognised experts, the construction of Waihi's tailings impoundments has been closely followed and reported on. There is strong regulatory involvement from Waikato Regional Council and Hauraki District Council through the consent conditions. Building consents are required as part of constructing a TSF.

As the impoundments are raised through normal operation, each level must meet strict performance criteria relating to material type, construction, depth, and compaction. Different types of waste rock are placed in specific locations before the embankment is capped with clay and topsoil. As the embankment is constructed, drainage systems and monitoring bores are incorporated into the design.

The consent conditions stipulate the requirements for the reporting of data to the appropriate regulatory authorities. The design engineer prepares an annual inspection report to confirm that the TSF is functioning as it was designed to. An independent peer review panel, consisting of experts in the fields of geotechnical engineering, geochemistry, hydrogeology, culture, and rehabilitation, also carry out inspections on a regular basis. They undertake annual site inspections, discuss monitoring with OceanaGold Waihi and its technical experts, review data and reports, and provide reports to the regulatory agencies.

REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation is a major part of OceanaGold's approach to modern mine planning. Closure plans are developed and approved annually.

On an annual basis the cost of rehabilitation is calculated and bonds covering this are put in place. These bonds operate under the independent oversight of the relevant District and Regional Councils and are set in their favour to ensure that rehabilitation plans are carried out under any circumstance.

Upon completion of mining, the Martha Trust will take over responsibility for the tailings impoundments. The company will fund the trust to allow it to carry out its functions. The sum provided will generate annual interest sufficient to allow the trust to manage, monitor, and maintain the site.

TSF 1A and TSF 2 are currently grazed by young cattle. Native trees and shrubs have also been planted on various areas of the TSFs. These plantings provide a food source and nesting sites for birds. Similar grazing and planting is planned for TSF 3.

When the tailings impoundments are later closed, they will be partially capped, leaving a wetland on the top. The pond outlet structures will allow fish passage from nearby waterways. The ponds will be able to support the range of aquatic organisms typically found in wetlands.

The riparian planting adjacent to the pond edge will provide additional habitat for wildlife.

CONCLUSION

Once constructed, ongoing, independently verified monitoring of water quality, structural integrity, and other operational elements are conducted throughout the life of a TSF.

At the end of its operational life, TSFs are rehabilitated and returned as pasture, wetland, or bush.

Bank guarantees (bonds) are set and revised annually, and reviewed by the councils under independent oversight to ensure that rehabilitation works are completed no matter the circumstance.

For even more information on tailings, the monitoring and rehabilitation processes, or the references used visit www.waihigold.co.nz/about-mining

If you'd like to learn more about the proposed TSF 3 or other aspects of the Waihi North Project, visit www.waihinorth.info

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT US.

Community Engagement Line: 0800 924 444 | Project Information Office: 86 Seddon St., Waihi.

Email us via our website: www.waihigold.co.nz

NOTE: WE ARE NOT CURRENTLY BLASTING IN THE MARTHA OPEN PIT. CHANGES TO THIS WILL BE NOTIFIED.