(Rush Gold, CSE: RGN): A probabilityweighted look at a preserved Nevada epithermal system

BY The Long Investor

I prefer speculations where the *geology* can convert a small enterprise value into something consequential—quickly—if the rocks cooperate. Rush Gold (CSE: RGN) fits that rubric: a single, testable Nevada target called **Skylight**, optioned from Silver Range in January 2025 and listed in June with IPO proceeds earmarked for first-pass work. Skylight comprises **16 federal lode claims** (~330 acres) in the Republic Mining District (Nye County), ~60 km northwest of Tonopah in the Royston Hills. The vendor's work suggests a **fully preserved**, **low-sulfidation epithermal Au–Ag system** whose core has *never been drill tested*—the sort of "cheap optionality" I like to finance. (<u>Silver Range Resources Ltd.</u>, <u>Canadian Securities Exchange</u>, <u>Rush Gold Corp</u>, <u>Yahoo Finance</u>)

What we're hunting (and why it matters)

Low-sulfidation epithermal systems are prized when they work: compact footprints, vein-hosted grade, and the potential for efficient, selective mining. They're not common, they're not uniform, and the prize sits in **feeder structures** below silica caps and sinters. Skylight's surface expression—flat-lying silica layers and cap rock with hot-spring textures—argues for a preserved hydrothermal cell with vertical vectoring potential from outflow to upflow. That preservation is precisely what improves the odds of finding grade where the system "breathes." (Silver Range Resources Ltd.)

Why Nevada, why now

Jurisdictional advantage compounds geological luck. Nevada repeatedly rewards capital with certainty—permitting cadence, skilled labor, grid power, and deep service clusters. The **Round Mountain** district is a reminder of how persistent epithermal systems in Nye County can be: >10 Moz of historical gold production over a century of development and expansions. Different style (large disseminated epithermal at a caldera rim), same point: stable mining code plus repeatable operating capacity. (Western Mining History, Wikipedia)

If you prefer vein analogs, **Mule Canyon** (northern Nevada rift) showcases what *compact, high-margin* looks like when low-sulfidation systems deliver: pre-mining reserves of ~8.2 Mt at ~3.8 g/t Au across six small deposits—proof that narrow, selective operations can throw off robust unit margins. (<u>U.S. Geological Survey</u>, <u>Geoscience World</u>)

Economic efficiency (how value gets created)

The economic case is simple: find continuity and grade in a geometry you can mine selectively; keep capex modest; scale as confidence builds. Skylight's earliest dollars should go to disciplined mapping/sampling, structural work, and targeted geophysics to vector into feeders. If scout holes confirm grade/width and continuity, the enterprise value can move markedly *before* you've proven a mine—because risk falls in chunks (see conceptual value curve chart below).

Regional successes & market re-ratings

Nevada epithermal vein camps have a history of value accretion via de-risking:

- Newmont → Klondex (Midas, 2014): Newmont sold the Midas mine and mill for an effective ~US\$83M package (US\$55M cash + ~US\$28M surety replacement + warrants). Klondex bought processing, ounces and a path to cash flow. (newmont.com, Newmont Investors, Torys, NS Energy)
- Hecla → Klondex (2018): A few years (and many de-risking steps) later, Hecla acquired Klondex for ~US\$462M in cash and shares, consolidating Fire Creek, Midas and Hollister. That's the playbook: prove continuity and mineability; sell scarcity. (GlobeNewswire, Junior Mining Network, SEC, Mining Technology, Investing News Network (INN))

These are not perfect comps to Skylight; they're *precedents* showing how Nevada epithermal ounces translate into higher enterprise value once technical risk is retired.

What we know at Skylight—today

- **Setting:** Royston Hills, **southern Republic Mining District**, near historical small high-grade epithermal Ag (and Au) occurrences. (Rush Gold Corp)
- **System state: Fully preserved** low-sulfidation epithermal cell, silica caps at surface, feeder(s) untested. (Silver Range Resources Ltd.)
- Near-term work: Post-IPO, Rush plans initial exploration programs—exactly the phase where small technical wins can re-rate micro-caps. (Morningstar)

The speculation is straightforward: you aren't underwriting a mine on Day 1—you're handicapping whether a *modest* exploration budget can move the probability needle from "interesting geology" toward "economic continuity." If yes, the stock tends to respond *before* engineering studies, because capital in this sector seeks shrinking uncertainty.

Bottom line

Skylight checks the boxes I care about: preserved epithermal architecture, clear vectoring hypotheses, Nevada advantage, and a micro-cap starting line where each technical step can matter disproportionately. The risk is real—most epithermals don't become mines—but the

payoff path is clear: prove feeders, demonstrate continuity, and let the jurisdiction do the rest. (Silver Range Resources Ltd.)

Standard caveat: high risk, high variance. Do your own work; size positions accordingly.