



Canadian Environmental
Assessment Agency

Ontario Regional Office
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Agence canadienne
d'évaluation environnementale

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August 11, 2017

Sent by E-mail

Steve Lines
Environmental Assessment and Permitting Manager
Greenstone Gold Mines
2381 Bristol Circle, Suite B203
Oakville, ON
L6H 5S9
steve.lines@ggmines.com

Dear Mr. Lines,

Subject: Commencement of federal technical review of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Hardrock Gold Mine Project

Thank you for submitting the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Hardrock Gold Mine Project to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) on July 12, 2017, and a revised EIS Summary addressing interim comments from the Agency on August 9, 2017. The Agency reviewed the EIS to determine whether it conforms to the *Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*¹ and the *Addendum to Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*² (known together as the EIS Guidelines).

The Agency has concluded that the EIS and revised EIS Summary sufficiently conform to the EIS Guidelines, and hereby advises you that the Agency is commencing the federal technical review of the EIS. August 12, 2017 marks the first day lapsed on the federal legal timeline, which will be day 45 of 365.

Please note that the EIS and revised EIS Summary will be posted on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry Internet Site to invite comments by the public and Indigenous peoples during the federal public comment period, which begins on August 18, 2017, and ends on October 6, 2017. As per the Agency's interim comments to Greenstone Gold Mines (GGM), GGM is required to distribute the revised EIS Summary (English and French) to federal and provincial government reviewers, Indigenous groups and public viewing centres that already received copies, in the same format (hard copy or electronic) that they were originally provided, by August 18, 2017.

.../2

¹ Issued on August 5, 2014, available at <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/documents/p80068/99680E.pdf>

² Issued on February 12, 2016, available at <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/documents/p80068/104775E.pdf>



Conformance with the EIS Guidelines does not imply that the information provided is adequate to support the environmental assessment. The Agency expects that Information Requirements (IRs) will be issued to you based on the results of the technical review conducted by federal reviewers, and on input received from public and Indigenous participants during the public comment period.

In accordance with subsections 27(6) and 23(2) of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012), the period that is taken by a proponent to comply with the information requirements is not included in the calculation of the time limit within which the Minister's decision must be made.

For more information on the approach to managing federal environmental assessment timelines, please consult the Agency's "*Operational Policy Statement: Information Requests and Timelines, February 2016*" at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environmental-assessment-agency/news/media-room/media-room-2016/information-requests-timelines.html>.

Should you have any questions regarding the technical review of the EIS, please contact me at 647-262-8219 or via e-mail at Hardrock@ceaa-acee.gc.ca.

Sincerely,
<Original signed by>

Marc Léger
Project Manager

cc: Carla Stevens – Major Projects Management Office
Ian Horne – Greenstone Gold Mines
Fiona Christiansen – Stantec
Gavin Battarino – Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change