

October 9, 2019

Katherine Hess, Acting Chief, Compliance Promotion and Enforcement Unit  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
Sent via email: katherine.hess@canada.ca

Dear Ms. Hess,

**Re: Hardrock Project – Detailed Engineering Optimizations**

This letter and attached report are intended to provide the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency) with an update on the progress of detailed engineering designs for Greenstone Gold Mine's (GGM) Hardrock Project.

In order to achieve our goal of continual improvement, design optimizations are considered by GGM throughout the development of the Project. Since environmental assessment is a planning process, the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment (EIS/EA) identified that the Project was expected to be refined through detailed engineering, during construction, and as production is optimized during operation.

The detailed engineering process outcome has delivered improvements to the conceptual level designs in the EIS/EA in accordance with GGM's continual improvement approach. Key design optimizations are presented in the attached report. GGM has previously discussed and circulated the optimizations and report to the Indigenous communities for consultation, and all feedback has been positive.

GGM looks forward to continuing to work with the CEA Agency on the requirements of permitting applications and meeting the conditions of the approval as the Project progresses.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Stephen Lines  
Director, Environment & Community Relations

Attached: Hardrock Project Outcome of Detailed Engineering Design Optimizations

cc: Marc Leger, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency