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GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

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GFN *mineral development* **NEWSLETTER**

Greenstone Gold Hardrock Project EA Review Report **Executive Summary**

Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon) was retained by Ginoogaming First Nation (GFN) to complete a high-level review of the January 2016 Greenstone Gold Mines (GGM) Hardrock Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment (EIS/EA) and associated Baseline Reports. The proposed Hardrock Project (the Project) is within GFN's Traditional Territory, which has been, and continues to be used for hunting, trapping, fishing, harvesting, and other traditional uses.

The purpose of the review is to assess if the Draft EIS/EA adequately considers the concerns and interests of GFN community members, and addresses potential impacts and proposed mitigation in a manner that is satisfactory to GFN. The review was conducted by a team of technical specialists with expertise in the various technical disciplines covered in the EIS/EA.

Continued inside...

In This Issue...

Greenstone Gold's Proposed
Hardrock Project Updates

IMPORTANT DATES

Meeting with Chief & Council: Tues May 31 at 2:00pm

Community Open House: Tues May 31 at 5:30pm

Meeting with Trappers & Elders: Wed June 1 at 10:00am

Open House in Thunder Bay: Wed June 1 at 6:00pm

Ginoogaming First Nation Wants to **DISCUSS** the Hardrock Gold Mine Project **WITH YOU**

Over the coming weeks you will have an opportunity to attend an open house discussion, learn more about the project and the review of the Environmental Assessment that was completed relative to the Hardrock Gold Mine project, and provide your feedback and/or ask questions. Be sure to participate as we need to hear from you (and there will be prize draws for getting involved). Visit the Ginoogaming First Nation Facebook page for more details or go to our website: www.ginoogamingfn.ca.

For more information or to have a survey emailed to you, please contact:
Conrad Chapais @ 807-876-1660 or
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Executive Summary

continued from cover...

The review process was undertaken in two phases. Phase 1 involved the initial review of Baseline Reports and existing community documents, and an initial round of community engagement to learn about GFN community lands, way of life, vision for the future, as well as questions, opportunities or concerns for the proposed Project. Phase 2 involved the review of the Draft EIS/EA, and a second round of community engagement to review the key findings and recommendations of the Review Report with community members and provide an additional opportunity for community input.

Overall, the Baseline Reports and Draft EIS/EA appear to have been completed to accepted industry standards, with the exception that Project-specific input by GFN and associated traditional knowledge/traditional land and resource use information (TK/TLRU) which appears to largely be missing. As a result, the determinations of impacts/effects on GFN are considered incomplete.

Several key themes were identified during the review:

- Aboriginal consultation and engagement and TK/TRLU information deficiencies.
- Concerns related to the potential impacts on water quality.
- Limited scope of socio-economic impact assessment.
- Inconsistencies and limited rationale for key assumptions.

The Review Report includes summaries of the findings, as well as detailed reviews by member of the technical review team. Recommendations aimed at addressing each of the primary findings are included in this report.



It is anticipated that the results presented in this Review Report will enable GFN to participate in meaningful discussions with GGM and Provincial and Federal Approval Authorities. It can also be used to assist in developing appropriate mitigation strategies and Project-specific environmental management plans that address the mutual interests of both GFN and GGM, should the Hardrock Project be approved. It is recommended that GFN and GGM work together to specifically discuss the comments and recommendations identified in the report, as well as any other subsequent comments or concerns that have not been addressed.



Newsletter Inserts

1. Four Rivers factsheet
2. Community Feedback Summary – March 2016

The following provides a summary of community feedback received in March 2016 through the community open houses, meetings with trappers, Elders, and Chief and Council, and completed surveys

General Project Concerns and Interests:

- Concerns related to the long-term impacts of the project on the environment
- Concerns with the speed at which the project and associated activities are taking place
- Concerns about mine closure and what the land will be like after
- Interests in understanding the full picture of what benefits the community can expect

Water

- Concerns about the impacts of the project on the watershed and all waters within in – everything is connected
- Concerns about what will happen to the water in the old mine shaft and if it will contaminate Kenogamisis Lake

Wildlife, Fish and Plants

- Concerns about the impacts of the project on animals that are hunted and trapped (e.g., moose, beaver, marten, etc.), birds (e.g., ducks, partridge), berries, and medicinal plants
- Concerns about impacts on fish (e.g., walleye, sturgeon, etc.) habitat/spawning areas and health

Traditional Foods and Land Use

- Concerns about the ability of community members to hunt, trap, fish, and harvest because of project impacts on animals and plants

Cultural and Historical Resources

- Concerns about the potential for damage to any archaeological/cultural items found during project construction and operations and the loss of historical buildings (e.g., the old headframe)
- Concerns about the continued loss of culture

Employment and Training

- Interests in employment and training opportunities, and what other opportunities that might be available (e.g., camps for workers and the associated services required that the community can provide like laundry service, food, etc.)

Social and Recreation

- Concerns about potential impacts of increased money in the community (e.g., drugs, alcohol)
- Concerns about the impacts to McLeod Lake Provincial Park and the loss of the golf course

Human Health

- Concerns about impacts to water, plants and animals in area and related impacts on community health

Steps of the EA Process



Identify Interested
& Affected
Communities



Plan the EA
and studies



Collect
baseline
information



Effects
Assessment
& Mitigation



Prepare &
Review the
EA Report(s)



Mitigation &
Monitoring

← Engagement with interested & affected communities throughout →



GFN wants to DISCUSS the Hardrock Gold Mine Project with YOU

Greenstone Gold has proposed the construction and operation of a gold mine at the old mine site, 2 kilometres south of Geraldton on Highway 11. Greenstone Gold is required to do an Environmental Assessment to get government approval to develop the mine. An Environmental Assessment is a study that helps predict the potential positive or negative effects of a project and find ways to reduce the negative effects.

As part of this Environmental Assessment process, Greenstone Gold has conducted a number of “baseline studies”, which provide a summary of existing conditions for different aspects of the natural environment around the proposed mine, and they have also looked at local social and economic issues. This information is used in the Environmental Assessment during discussions about potential impacts of the mine project.

We have hired Dillon Consulting and its technical experts to review Greenstone’s baseline studies for the Hardrock Gold Mine Project for Ginoogaming First Nation. The Dillon Team visited the community in March to engage with community members to understand your interests and concerns related to the project. The Team has completed their review will be returning at the end of May to report back on what they found, and answer any additional questions.

Over the coming weeks you will have an opportunity to attend an open house discussion, learn more about the project and the review of the Environmental Assessment that was completed, and provide your feedback and/or ask questions. Be sure to participate as we need to hear from you (and there will be prize draws for getting involved). Visit the Ginoogaming First Nation Facebook page for more details or go to our website: www.ginoogamingfn.ca.

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