

**HARDROCK PROJECT  
Final Environmental Impact  
Statement / Environmental  
Assessment**

Chapter 26.0:  
Conclusions

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## 26.0 CONCLUSIONS

This Final Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Assessment (Final EIS/EA) documents the results of the environmental assessment for the Hardrock Project (the Project) proposed by GGM Gold Mines GP Inc. (GGM). The Project has been assessed to meet the requirements of both the federal EIS Guidelines and provincial Terms of Reference. Consultation has been ongoing prior to and throughout the EA process, and will continue with agencies, local Aboriginal communities, and stakeholders through the life of the Project. As part of the information sharing through the consultation process, Project-related information was provided by Aboriginal communities in the form of traditional knowledge and traditional land and resource use studies and other forms of information sharing. Consultation input and Project-related studies have been considered throughout the environmental assessment including baseline data collection, alternatives assessment, mitigation, and follow-up monitoring, where appropriate.

Thirteen valued components (VCs) were identified as relevant and important to the environmental assessment based on regulatory requirements and consultation. They included the atmospheric environment, acoustic environment, groundwater, surface water, fish and fish habitat, vegetation communities, wildlife and wildlife habitat, labour and economy, community services and infrastructure, land and resource use, heritage resources, traditional land and resource use, and human and ecological health.

Project interactions with the VCs were analyzed to determine potential environmental effects associated with the Project for construction, operation and closure phases.

Based on the results of the environmental assessment, including implementing the identified mitigation measures, the Project is not predicted to cause significant adverse environmental effects, including effects from accidents and malfunctions, effects of the environment on the Project and cumulative effects. A number of monitoring and reporting commitments have been proposed to validate the conclusions of the environmental assessment, and to determine if adaptive management measures may be required.

The Project will have both environmental and socio-economic benefits including:

- Rehabilitation measures to address the historical MacLeod and Hardrock tailings have been incorporated into the Project, including partial removal of historical MacLeod and Hardrock tailings and installation of an enhanced cover system and a subsurface seepage collection system for the historical MacLeod high tailings. These rehabilitation measures are expected to improve overall water quality in Kenogamisis Lake compared to existing conditions.

## **HARDROCK PROJECT FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

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- The benefits of constructing and operating the Project for Ontario and Canada include economic development and diversification and job creation. The Project will provide tax revenue for the Municipality of Greenstone, as well as for the provincial and federal governments. These revenues can then be used to support public services, such as health care, education, and infrastructure. Based on an assessment of spending estimates, the Project is expected to have a positive effect on the economies of local communities, the District of Thunder Bay, the Province of Ontario, and the Government of Canada.
- GGM is dedicated to establishing productive local partnerships that contribute to achieving development goals identified by the community, to address local priorities and concerns, and to have communities derive benefits from the Project. Social benefits are predicted as a result of the Project, including increased labour force capacity, reduced unemployment, increased personal and family income, and increased income for regional businesses.