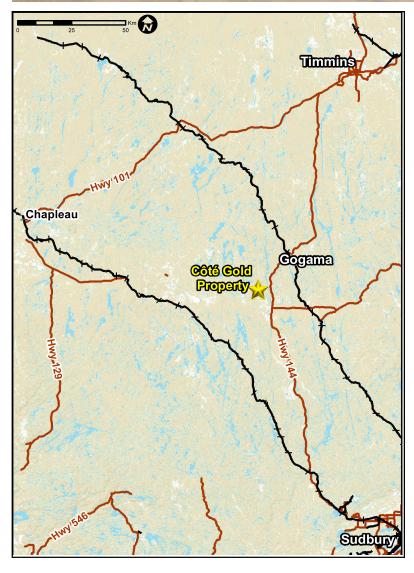


# Let's Talk: The Côté Gold Project Community Newsletter



# Environmental Effects Review of the Côté Gold Project

During the environmental assessment (EA) process, IAMGOLD received valuable feedback from government regulators, technical experts, local stakeholders and Indigenous communities regarding the Project. IAMGOLD carefully considered this feedback and worked to revise the Project design to further reduce potential effects on the environment and local communities.

An Environmental Effects Report is being prepared to show how changes to the Project design continue to meet the Federal and Provincial conditions of approval of the Project. Results so far show:

The optimized Project has similar or reduced potential for environmental effects

The conclusions from the EA are still valid.

The table on page 2 highlights predicted changes in effects for each area studied.

Continued on page 2

Since our last newsletter in February 2018, IAMGOLD has been working hard to review and compare the predicted effects of the optimized Project design with the environmental assessment (EA). We have continued to engage and consult with Indigenous communities, stakeholders and governments and held three public open houses in February (Gogama, Timmins and Sudbury) to share information about the Project and proposed design improvements.

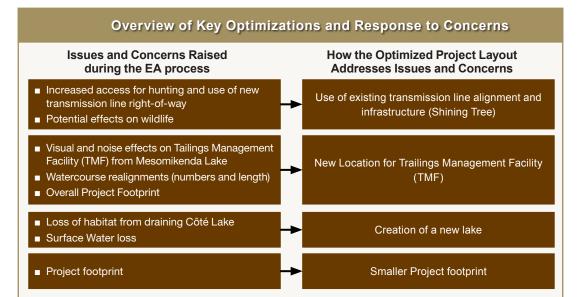
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#### The Côté Gold Project Community Newsletter - May 2018

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Торіс	Changes to Predicted Effects
Air, Noise and Vibration	<ul> <li>Reduced effects on air quality <ul> <li>Reduced emissions (smaller mine fleet, condensed Project layout)</li> <li>About 28% reduction in predicted greenhouse gas emissions (less equipment required)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Reduced noise emissions <ul> <li>Mitigation proposed in EA for nighttime operations no longer required</li> </ul> </li> <li>Continued commitment for monitoring of air, noise and vibration</li> </ul>
Water (groundwater and surface water)	<ul> <li>Reduced groundwater and surface water effects</li> <li>Fewer watercourse realignments (from 7 to 2)</li> <li>No longer impacting Bagsverd Creek</li> <li>Shortened pit flooding during Closure &amp; Post-closure</li> <li>Quicker return of groundwater levels to pre-mining conditions</li> <li>Water quality predictions are consistent with the EA</li> </ul>
Terrestrial and Aquatic Biology	<ul> <li>Reduced effects on aquatic and terrestrial habitat</li> <li>Smaller Project footprint</li> <li>Less clearing for the new transmission line route</li> <li>Fewer water realignment channels</li> <li>Creation of a new lake</li> <li>Relocation and smaller tailings management facility avoids Painted Turtle habitat and other sensitive species</li> </ul>
Land Use	<ul> <li>4M Circle Canoe Route will no longer be affected by watercourse realignments and will be accessible throughout all project phases; facilitated access at one portage location (no change from EA)</li> <li>Use of existing transmission line right-of-way addresses concerns about hunting access along route shown in EA</li> </ul>
Archeology and Built Heritage	<ul> <li>No archaeological or built heritage resources will be affected by the Project (same as EA prediction)</li> <li>Based on feedback during the EA: <ul> <li>Additional field work planned in 2018</li> <li>Discussions about protocols for curation and storage of artifacts</li> <li>A licensed archaeologist will monitor the dewatering of Côté Lake</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Socio-economics	<ul> <li>Improved economic benefits from longer mine operation (from 15 to 17 years)</li> <li>Employment opportunities will be longer due to longer mine life</li> <li>Positive impact to local businesses and service providers</li> <li>Increased Government revenue from taxation to support local communities and services</li> </ul>
Traditional Land Use	Use of existing transmission line right-of-way addresses concerns about access for hunting and use of new transmission line right-of-way proposed in the EA and reduces potential effects on wildlife
Visual Aesthetics	<ul> <li>The Mine Rock Area will be less visible compared to the EA design; it has a smaller footprint, is further from the shoreline and blends more with the natural topography</li> <li>The Tailings Management Facility is in a new location and has a smaller footprint; the dam height is higher and so it will be visible from some local lakes</li> </ul>

The EER Report will be submitted to the federal and provincial governments and will be shared publicly.



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### **Transmission Line Environmental Assessment**

Your ideas are making a difference. Since the submission of the environmental assessment (EA), IAMGOLD has been receiving and reviewing feedback from government regulators, technical experts, local stakeholders and Indigenous communities. These insights contributed to IAMGOLD optimizing the Project with a reduced production rate that has decreased energy requirements. The 120 km cross-country 230 kV





transmission line presented in the EA is no longer required; instead, a shorter 44 km 115 kV Shining Tree transmission line alignment is being proposed (it will be owned and operated by IAMGOLD), and will connect to an existing line at Shining Tree. The Shining Tree transmission

line alignment will require minor clearing of an existing rightof-way from the Shining Tree Substation to the Project site. IAMGOLD will construct the Shining Tree transmission line in accordance with commitments made during the EA process including avoiding the use of herbicides.

The transmission line EA process requires a screening report, which is currently in preparation. Opportunities to provide input on the EA process are available through:

- Public open houses (see www.iamgold.com/cotegold-events for more information)
- Reach out directly to IAMGOLD (see contact information on page 6)
- 30-day review and comment period after screening report is filed.

Existing Corridor between Project Site and Shining Tree DS

### **Tailings Management Facility and Mine Rock Area**

Since acquiring additional interest in adjacent mineral claims, IAMGOLD has been considering feedback on how to make the Project's layout more compact and efficient. IAMGOLD identified several alternatives for tailings and mine rock storage and is assessing these options from environmental, social, technical and cost perspectives. IAMGOLD will share preliminary results from the alternatives assessment during the upcoming open houses and welcomes your feedback.

This assessment will also be used for the *Fisheries Act* Metal Mining Effluent Regulations Schedule 2 regulatory amendment process. Additional opportunities will be available to participate in the process led by Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Community

concerns /

feedback

Removal of Cross-Country

Transmission Line

Alignment from

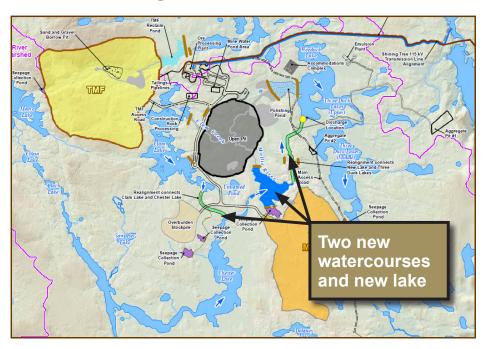
Project

Project

optimizations

### **Offsetting of Fish Habitat Changes**

IAMGOLD has developed a revised mine plan that has a smaller footprint than what was presented in the environmental assessment - and this newer plan results in less habitat being lost and watershed boundaries to be maintained. Parts of the Mollie River and Clam Lake will still need to be realigned and some small ponds will be lost in the area where the tailing management facility and mine rock storage areas will be located. The realignments and creation of a new lake are important for fish and plants and animals that are part of these ecosystems.



A new channel will link Clam Lake

with Chester Lake and allow water from Clam Lake to flow south into Chester Lake. The second new watercourse will link a new lake (a deep blue area just south of the open pit) with Three Duck Lakes (Upper). These new watercourses are being designed to maintain the watershed, and safely convey flow and provide similar habitat for fish.

IAMGOLD is also working on a fisheries offsetting plan that will be submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada to obtain approvals under the Fisheries Act. This plan will include details of the proposed

> channels and lake designs and methods to promote the rapid establishment of replacement fish habitats.

During closure, IAMGOLD's plan is similar to the one previously presented in the environmental assessment, in which the open pit will be flooded and the realignment channels decommissioned. The Mollie River and Clam Creek will flow into the pit lake, which will discharge into upper Three Duck Lakes (Upper), as is currently the case.



## **Discovering the Past**

For the past eight years, Woodland Heritage Services and Woodland Heritage Northeast have been conducting archaeological studies for the Côté Gold Project. These studies have focused on areas associated with the mine site layout, the transmission line and several aggregate extraction areas.

Archaeological work in the Project area resulted in the identification of 43 archaeological sites and features, including:

- 23 pre-contact archaeological sites
- 11 post-contact archeological sites largely related to the early exploration period of Chester and Yeo Townships, including mineral exploration
- 9 portages.

This archaeological work has helped us understand how people lived and used the lands in the Project area over the last several thousand years. It has also proved to be important in developing our understanding of how Indigenous communities used smaller lakes and waters, possibly related to use during different times of the year where these peripheral areas

were used to harvest resources such as food and medicines.

From a historic mining exploration perspective, the major prospecting camps within the Project area were located

and more detailed archaeological work was completed on the Shepard Camp and the Shannon Cabin. The first discovery of gold on the property was nearly a century ago, and today IAMGOLD is well on its way to seeing it developed.

### Mine Closure

We're thinking ahead. Not only are we diligently caring for the environment while we plan the Project, but we're looking beyond that, to the time when the mine is closed.

The *Mining Act* and the Mine Rehabilitation Code of Ontario determine what a mine closure plan must include.

The main goal of closure is to rehabilitate the Project area to as near a natural state as practical. This will promote vegetation growth to support habitat for local species diversity and aquatic habitat to support healthy fish populations. Project infrastructure will be removed, disturbed areas will be rehabilitated and surface drainage will be re-established. Access will be maintained or re-established for us, our children, grandchildren and future generations.

Monitoring will occur throughout the closure phase. "Closed Out" as defined in the *Mining Act* means "the final stage of closure has been reached and that all requirements of a Closure Plan have been complied with". We are interested in hearing your views on how the land could be restored once mining activities end.

#### Projectile Point





**IAMG** 

#### Proposed Project Schedule

2 years: 2019-2021

Construction of the Project is expected to commence early in 2019, after the submission of the EER and necessary permits are complete. The proposed gold mine would begin operation in 2021.



17 years: 2021-2038

Closure 2 years: 2039-2040

## Want to work for the Côté Gold Project?

The Côté Gold Project is looking to hire a General Manager and will begin hiring for key roles this year. Visit the IAMGOLD Careers webpage for more information: www.iamgold.com/careers

- Register on the website to create a job alert to be notified of future roles that meet your skills and qualifications
- Apply online!

## **Upcoming Consultation and Community Engagement**

To support ongoing communication about the Project, IAMGOLD will hold open houses and community meetings. We invite you to come and learn about the Project, provide your feedback, ask questions and get involved!

Look for Notice of Open Houses in your local newspaper and on the IAMGOLD website: *www.iamgold.com/cotegold-events* 

IAMGOLD is grateful for, and looks forward to your continued participation!

### For more Information please contact us: cotegold@iamgold.com

Join our Project mailing list to be kept informed about the Project and any upcoming events by sending an email to: <a href="mailto:cotegold@iamgold.com">cotegold@iamgold.com</a>