

September 11, 2018

**Michel K. Vitou**

**Chief of Compliance and Enforcement**

**Submitted electronically: [ceaa.compliance-conformite.acee@canada.ca](mailto:ceaa.compliance-conformite.acee@canada.ca)**

**Re: Côté Gold Project – Environmental Effects Review**

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry Reference Number 80036**

Dear Mr. Vitou:

IAMGOLD proposes to construct, operate and eventually rehabilitate the Côté Gold Project (the Project), located in Chester and Yeo Townships in the District of Sudbury, northeastern Ontario. On February 11, 2015, IAMGOLD submitted the Amended Environmental Impact Statement / Final Environmental Assessment Report (hereafter referred to as the “EA”) to federal and provincial agencies. IAMGOLD received the environmental assessment (EA) decision statement of approval issued by the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada on April 13, 2016.

Following the receipt of the EA approvals for the Project, IAMGOLD has identified various opportunities to optimize the Project. IAMGOLD has also continued to review comments and feedback from First Nations and Métis, local communities, technical experts and government regulators. IAMGOLD conducted a pre-feasibility study that evaluated various options and opportunities and, as a consequence, has improved Project economics, engineering design, socio-economic benefits and reduced potential environmental effects.

The enclosed Environmental Effects Review (EER) Report is provided to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency in accordance with Federal EA Conditions 2.10 and 2.11 – General Conditions. IAMGOLD has prepared the EER to ensure optimizations and changes to the Project have been duly reviewed such that changes to the potential environmental effects of the Project, if and where applicable, are identified, documented and properly managed. Additionally, the EER provides IAMGOLD an opportunity to communicate these changes to government regulators, the public and Indigenous communities.

The EER Report also includes a review of the applicability of the Project’s EA Conditions in context of the refinements to the Project as described in the EER.

Throughout the EER process, several meetings have been held with First Nation communities, Métis Nation of Ontario, along with hosting public open houses in Gogama, Timmins and Sudbury. Feedback received has led to further discussions and optimizations to the Project. The EER Report will also be provided to Indigenous communities and made available on the Project website ([www.iamgold.com/cotegold-documents](http://www.iamgold.com/cotegold-documents)).

The results of the EER confirm that the predicted environmental effects of the optimized Project are similar or reduced compared to the EA. Therefore, the conclusions of the EA, including the determinations of significance of residual effects, remain valid. The EER demonstrates that overall, the optimized Project presents an improvement compared to the EA.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,  
<Original signed by>

Steven Woolfenden  
Director, Environment  
IAMGOLD Corporation

cc. Stephan Theben, SLR Consulting

Enclosure: Côté Gold Project – Environmental Effects Review Report