

Environmental Protection Operations
Prairie and Northern
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6 June 2011

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NIRB file: 11RN017

Kelli Gillard
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Nunavut Impact Review Board
29 Mitik, PO Box 1360
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Via email: info@nirb.ca

**RE: Notice of Part 4 Screening for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM) "All-Weather Road"
proponent's response to comments**

Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the information regarding the above-mentioned, as submitted to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB). The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act 1999*, Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

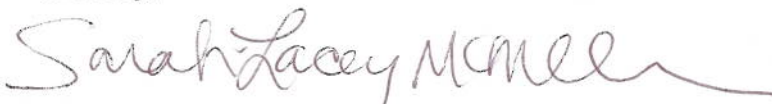
Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. is proposing to construct a public, all-weather access road between Rankin Inlet and the Meliadine Gold Project. The intent of the road is to support the underground exploration and bulk sample at the Tiriganiaq deposit. The construction of the road is proposed to occur from June 2011 to May 2012. Project activities include the replacement of an existing bridge across the Char River, construction of a bridge across the Meliadine River, construction of a bridge across an unnamed ephemeral stream, installation of stacked culverts at nine ephemeral streams, development of a spur road to Meliadine Lake, construction of an emergency airstrip, and the development of esker and rock quarries.

After reviewing the proponent's response to comments, EC is of the opinion that majority of the mitigation measures outlined by the proponent are sufficient. However, there was one response that EC found unsatisfactory as follows::

- The proponent indicated that it was not possible in all cases to comply with EC's recommendation of a 100 m buffer zone between any quarrying and the normal high water mark of any water body. EC recommends the board require the proponent to provide the locations of the quarries and the distances from the nearest water bodies in order to evaluate the potential risk to nearby water bodies from quarrying activities.

If there are any additional changes in the proposed project, EC should be notified, as further review may be necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 669-4724 or by email at Sarah-Lacey.McMillan@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,



Sarah-Lacey McMillan
Environmental Assessment Coordinator

cc: Carey Ogilvie (Head, Environmental Assessment-North, EPO, EC, Yellowknife, NT)
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