



July 23, 2011

Honourable John Duncan  
Minister Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development,  
House of Commons, Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

**RE: Screening Decision – Agnico Eagle Mines, Meliadine Gold Mine  
NIRB File No. 11MN034; AAND File No. 5510-5028**

Dear Minister,

Our company, as well as many other businesses, community groups, Hamlet Councils and organizations, conveyed their support for the proposed All Weather Road from Rankin Inlet to the Agnico Meliadine Gold Project in February 2011. NIRB has recently returned with a screening decision outlining “reasons” why the construction of the road cannot be permitted until a full review of the project is completed citing conformity with the Land Claims Agreement and other regulatory requirements.

We have no doubt that Agnico and the Kivalliq Inuit Association have presented you with strong evidence that proper procedures have been adhered to, applications and permitting are in place and adequate consultation has been met (which it has). They will also state that delays in construction of the road will mean extra operating costs, jeopardize/postpone proposed development at the site which translates into fewer benefits for the region. These are all accurate statements which are very, very important for small companies such as ours.

Sarliaq is a small 100% Inuit owned company based in Rankin Inlet with the goal, purpose and vision of training and employing Inuit in the mining industry, primarily for the Meliadine Project. This past week, 2 young Inuit from Coral Harbour received their Miner’s Card (2 more will receive theirs in August); they are the first certified underground miners in the Kivalliq since the 1960s and the first ever from Coral Harbour to receive this certification. This initiative was a

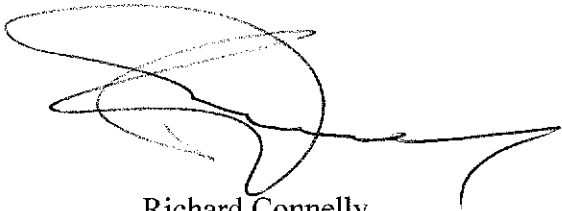
joint effort between Agnico, CMAC-Thyssen and Sarliaq, a vision of our little company to begin training Inuit as underground miners in preparation for the Meliadine project. We are very proud of these young men's accomplishments and hope to have many more follow in their footsteps however our efforts at conducting our next sessions at Meliadine may be in jeopardy due to what we think is "red tape".

Sarliaq has several other training initiatives underway involving Diamond Drilling and Industrial Electricians and the company is also excited about expanding on site with light infrastructure to better service the client and its own staff however with the current situation, all plans are on hold. The most disheartening part of any delay at this point is that individuals associated with our company will not be involved in training or employed simply because a decision was made not to accept the road proposal with this application. This is truly a shame because the majority of our people come from outside of Rankin Inlet, from communities where unemployment is very high and the prospect of local employment is practically nonexistent.

The Land Claims Agreement was developed and implemented to benefit Inuit, it should not be used to impede on those who need it the most, surely there must be a way to compromise and use the NLCA for the purpose and spirit in which it was meant to be used.

We trust that our point of view on and position on the matter is clear and concise but if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Richard Connelly  
Vice-President  
Sarliaq Holdings Ltd.  
Rankin Inlet, NU

C. Lucassie Arragutainnaq, NIRB  
Leona Aglukark, MP Nunavut  
Hon Lorne Kusugak, Minister Community Development and Government Services, GN  
Hon Peter Taptuna, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, GN  
Tagak Curley, MLA Rankin Inlet North  
Pujuut Kusugak, Mayor of Rankin Inlet  
Denis Gourde, Agnico-Eagle Mines