



NIRB File No.: 11EN010
NIRB Application No.: 125071
NPC File No.: 148399

April 18, 2017

To: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett
Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: minister@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca and Carolyn.bennett@canada.ca

Re: **Screening Decision for Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Pilot study – Hovercraft Implementation in Nunavut" Project Proposal, Kivalliq Region**

Dear Ms. Carolyn Bennett:

On December 23, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Pilot study – Hovercraft Implementation in Nunavut" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission) with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan. The NPC noted that the previous conformity determinations issued on March 10, 2011 and March 27, 2014 for the activities associated with the current proposal continue to apply but referred the project proposal to NIRB because the NPC determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the project because it involves resupply transport not previously considered by the NIRB.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (Nunavut Agreement) and section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the NIRB commenced screening this project proposal. Due to the proposal containing activities that were sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **11EN010**, the NIRB viewed this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and assigned this proposal with this previous file number.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB has determined pursuant to section 91 of the NuPPAA that Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Pilot study – Hovercraft Implementation in Nunavut" project **should be modified or abandoned**.

Accordingly, the NIRB is issuing the attached Screening Decision Report dated April 18, 2017 to the responsible Minister. The Screening Decision Report provides, among other things, the regulatory framework, project overview, and the NIRB assessment process, factors relevant for determining the significance of impacts, the Board's views, determination and conclusions.

Please note that the project proposal will not be enclosed due to the size of the electronic document and the limited bandwidth. However, an electronic copy of the project proposal is accessible online from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Pilot study - Hovercraft Implementation in Nunavut
- NIRB File No.: 11EN010
- Application No.: 125071

The NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary. If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Executive Director, Ryan Barry at (867) 983-4608 or rbarry@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Copland, Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure: Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 11EN010 (April 18, 2017)