



AGNICO EAGLE

March 2nd, 2018

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Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
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**Re: NIRB File No. 17EA068 Opportunity to address comments received regarding
“Huckleberry Exploration” project proposal**

Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd (Agnico Eagle) appreciates the opportunity to provide supplementary information regarding the Huckleberry exploration project.

Mr. John Tugak possesses a signed mineral exploration agreement with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. On June 30th, 2017 an agreement was signed between Mr. Tugak and Agnico Eagle to pursue exploration activities on the Huckleberry-0001 property covering an area of 506 hectares. This property is located on Inuit Owned Land surface and subsurface and is located approximately 65 km mostly west of the Whale Cove community. Exploration activities, such as prospecting, have already been authorized to John Tugak by Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC), Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) and Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) in 2016.

The present project application is related to authorising the installation of an exploration camp, to permit additional exploration activities including geophysical surveys (airborne and ground support), diamond drilling, percussion rotary air blast drilling, trenching, and to permit the use of a winter access from the Meliadine area and from Whale Cove up to the Huckleberry-0001 property. Agnico Eagle will be responsible for and manage the exploration activities on this property.



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As requested by the NIRB, please find below the supplementary information concerning the present application:

1. Lack of public consultation

Consultation meetings were conducted regarding to exploration projects including, in addition to questions and feedbacks, a presentation explaining;

- Agnico Eagle's corporate background and vision;
- The steps in exploration activities;
- The Agnico Eagle's activities located in the Kivalliq Region and associated timelines;
- Caribou mitigation measures;
- Employment opportunities;
- Local purchasing.

On October 11th 2017, Agnico Eagle met the Whale Cove Hamlet representatives to discuss the Huckleberry exploration project and to obtain their input, expectations and concerns regarding this project. An additional meeting with most of the Whale Cove Hamlet Council was held on February 13th 2018 to describe the proposed exploration activities, location of the Huckleberry mineral property and the calving grounds location. There was also a fulsome discussion on the type of exploration activities anticipated for this summer. It was agreed that Agnico Eagle would keep the Hamlet and community members apprised of all development and proposed work on a bi-monthly basis at minimum. The next meeting with the community will be held in March. The Hamlet of Whale Cove supports the proposed mineral exploration project if Agnico Eagle respects/applies the following:

- Helicopter/twin otter maintain an altitude of 1000 feet and more;
- Agnico Eagle applies caribou mobile protection i.e. activities to cease when caribou are in the area;
- Ensure water quality of lakes/rivers is maintained to enhance fish population;
- Fuel is stored properly to prevent spillage;



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- No restrictions on traditional/recreational use/access to land or lakes in the area are created;
- Ensure to minimize the destruction of land when using machinery, ATV and snowmobiles;
- Follow regulations regarding reporting of heritage resources in the area;
- Ensure maximum employment of Whale Cove residents;
- Ensure maximum support and use of Whale Cove businesses;

The letter of support from the Hamlet of Whale Cove is included in attachment A.

On February 9th 2018, a meeting was conducted between Agnico Eagle and the Issatik Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTO). Discussions included a description of the exploration activities schedule relating caribou protection. Following the meeting, HTO confirmed (letter in attachment B) that they were in support of the proposed exploration project and requested that Agnico Eagle to hire two local wildlife monitors who would ensure that all given conditions are followed.

A meeting with the Mayor of Arviat and Hamlet's administration was held on February 15th, 2018 with Agnico Eagle's representatives. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the proposed work in the Huckleberry project and the project location. The meeting also included a discussion about the general exploration lifecycle and the minimum resources required to develop a mine in Kivalliq region. In addition, the meeting described the employment opportunities that would arise for the beneficiaries of Arviat, should a mine were to open. The Hamlet also asserted their commitment to continue the partnership with Agnico Eagle to enhance training programs with to meet employment needs.

Consultation meetings in Rankin Inlet:

At this time, anticipated dates to meet with the community of Rankin Inlet are tentatively in March.



2. Limited information regarding waste management

As recommended by ECCC, a Waste Management Plan (WMP) for the Huckleberry exploration project has been developed and can be found in Attachment C. This plan highlights the procedures and activities relating to the management of waste based on type and quantity. WMP are developed for all exploration sites and operations and the Huckleberry WMP is based on these active management plans.

Information on waste management was submitted to NIRB within the existing application. Additional information is noted below.

Camp Greywater

Greywater is planned to be disposed of, in a natural depression located at more than 31 meters from any water body. An estimated 2m³/day of greywater is planned to be released during camp operation.

Sewage

Sewage will be incinerated, or shipped off site. Shipping off site will be based on temporary storage in 205liters drums with bolted lids stored in seacans. The seacans would then be transported south for final disposal in an authorized disposal facility.

Combustible Waste

Combustible Waste will be incinerated on site using a dual chamber waste incinerator, transported to Meliadine mine or transported south for final disposal in an authorized disposal facility. Minimally, the food waste and food packaging will have to be incinerated daily to minimize the attraction of wildlife. The proposed incinerator is a standard small dual chamber waste incinerator.

Hazardous Waste

Hazardous Waste will be segregated on site and temporarily stored in appropriate containers located in a seacan. The final preparation will be



conducted by a HAZMAT waste specialist and then transported south for final disposal or recycling in authorized facilities.

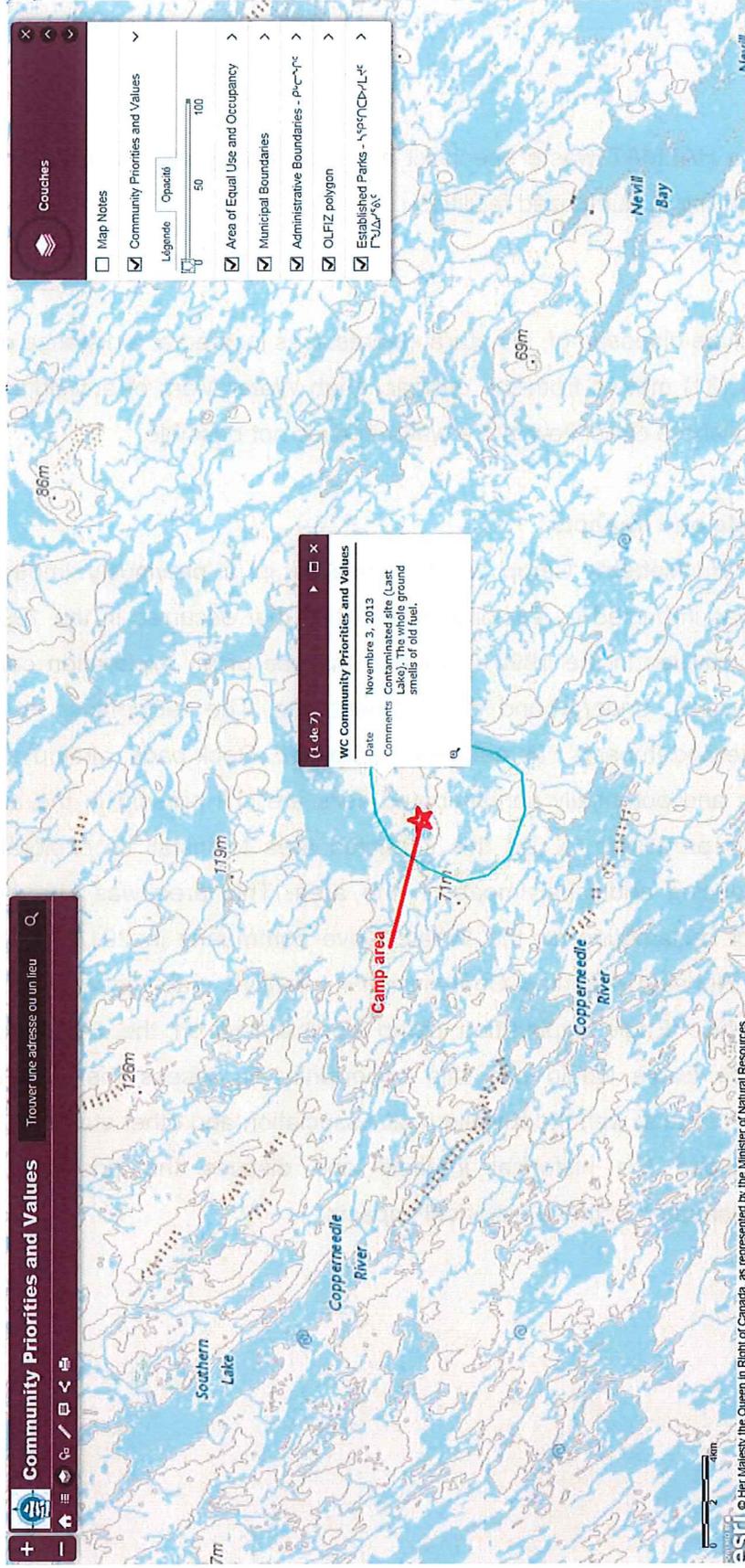
Drill Cuttings

Drill cuttings will be disposed of, in natural depressions located at a distance of at least thirty-one (31) meters from the ordinary High Water Mark of any adjacent water body and where direct flow into a water body is not possible.

Historical Waste and Impacts

The proposed Huckleberry Camp will be installed in a previously impacted footprint that was impacted by exploration activities that occurred in the 1990s. The historical activities in the 1990's included the use of an exploration camp, exploration activities, underground development, etc. The reclamation of the Historical Waste and Impacts has not been completed. Rock pads, airstrip, Atco trailers, wastes and potentially contaminated soils are still present in the area. Agnico Eagle is proposing to use this impacted area to install its exploration camp, thus reducing additional impact in the area. This area was already a priority area for reclamation by the Whale Cove community in 2013, as it is shown on the Nunavut Planning Commission interactive map (see Figure 1). Should the Agnico Eagle exploration camp be installed on the Huckleberry property, Agnico Eagle would use this opportunity to assess the historical impacts, in collaboration with the Kivalliq Inuit Association and other stakeholders to fully understand the historical impacts and discuss the possibility of progressive reclamation of these historical impacts.

Figure 1, Whale Cove priorities and values



From Nunavut Planning Commission interactive map



3. Limited information regarding fish and fish habitat in reference to water withdrawal

To ensure fish protection during water withdrawal, water intakes with appropriate intake mesh sizes will be used as described in the “Freshwater intake End-of-Pipe fish screen guideline” published by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. To ensure protection of water bodies, including fish habitat, protection buffers are applied around water bodies during exploration activities. Drilling waste (cutting) has to be disposed of at least thirty-one meters above the ordinary High Water Mark of any water body, at a site where direct flow into a water body is not possible and no additional impacts are created.

4. Conducting activities within the calving grounds of the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd.

According to the spatial data included in the 2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan, the proposed exploration project is not located within the calving grounds, but in the post-calving area. The Issatik HTO mentioned in their February 9th 2018 letter, that the proposed exploration project is not located within the calving grounds, but is located in an area used during caribou migration. The Hamlet of Whale Cove mentioned also in their February 9th 2018 letter that the exploration project is on the migratory route to the calving grounds, but is not normally the place where caribou had their young.

Agnico Eagle believes that protection of the caribou in to the context of mineral exploration can be achieved by using a Mobile Caribou Protection. This protection is considered to be efficient in the long term to ensure caribou protection even when females calve outside the protection boundaries.

With this protection measure, when a caribou herd is seen or is known approaching an exploration activity, the activity will be stopped when the herd arrives inside a determinate protection buffer to let the caribous quietly pass the area. Only once the caribous have left the protection area, can the exploration



activities resume. These protection measures have been in place at Agnico Eagle exploration projects for many years and are described in the “Wildlife Protection and Response Plan”. A management plan dedicated to the Huckleberry project has been produced and is in attachment D.

Agnico Eagle’s participation to collaring program

Adapting our exploration and mining activities to caribou movements is important for the protection of caribou herds in Nunavut. Protection of the herd starts with the reliable collection and use of data, observations from environmental staff, collaboration with Inuit stakeholders and awareness from management. We use government collaring data to inform monitoring decision, including the need to increase caribou surveys near our activities. As a result, since 2008, Agnico Eagle has invested and created a strong partnership with the GN and have funded the collaring and caribou monitoring program. The collared caribou location information is now provided weekly to Agnico Eagle by the Government of Nunavut, and twice per week when collared caribou approach one Agnico Eagle’s mineral properties. This information is used as a very important tool to reduce the risk of disrupting the caribou and is a proactive approach

We believe this additional information and clarifications provided here will meet the NIRB’s expectations and that they highlight Agnico Eagle’s willingness to collaborate with the communities and local stakeholders. Please contact the undersigned if you require additional information.

David Frenette

Environmental Coordinator