



NIRB File No.: 11MN034
NWB File No.: 2AM-MEL1631
NPC File No.: 149743

April 3, 2023

To: Jamie Quesnel
Director – Permitting and Regulatory Affairs
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Baker Lake, NU X0C 0A0

Sent via email: jamie.quesnel@agnicoeagle.com

Re: The NIRB's Update to the Pre-Hearing Conference Decision for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's "Meliadine Extension" Project Proposal

Dear Jamie Quesnel:

In the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) December 22, 2022 Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Report for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's (Agnico Eagle) "Meliadine Extension" Project Proposal (Extension Proposal), the Board identified that the next steps in the Board's assessment would include a second Pre-Hearing Conference. On March 16, 2023, the NIRB completed the second Pre-Hearing Conference and has prepared an Update to the Pre-Hearing Conference Decision (PHC Decision Update).

The enclosed PHC Decision Update outlines the Board's findings that there remains key information gaps and sufficient time is required to ensure that the Board and parties have all the information necessary to adequately assess the potential ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts of the Extension Proposal. In considering outstanding issues as well as timelines suggested by the Proponent and parties, the **Board has determined that it is reasonable to schedule a site visit and in-person Public Hearing in Rankin Inlet from September 12-20, 2023.**

With respect to scheduling the Public Hearing, the Board has identified that the following information is required for the Board and parties to meaningfully conduct the assessment:

- Updated information regarding caribou movement on the mine site to reflect the data now shared by the Government of Nunavut, the location of the wind turbines, and the intensification of the operations that would occur during the Extension Proposal;
- More detailed information regarding Agnico Eagle's selection criteria applicable to the selection of the location for the windfarm, including whether any alternative locations closer to Rankin Inlet were considered and whether alternative locations as proposed by Kivalliq Inuit Association or the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization were considered;

- Summary of discussions between Agnico Eagle and parties, key studies, required updated modelling, and any information needed to understand potential impacts regarding the alternative for in-pit waste rock and tailings deposition;
- An updated water quality and water balance model, specifically addressing the anticipated discharges to Meliadine Lake; and
- Barriers to Female Employment Study.

The Board encourages the Proponent and parties to continue to work together to resolve these outstanding information gaps, and to update the NIRB on an on-going basis regarding the status of resolved and unresolved issues as the assessment progresses.

As further described within the PHC Decision Update, the Board's proposed next steps include:

- **On or before Friday, April 14, 2023** the Board publishes Notice of the Public Hearing;
- **On or before Wednesday, May 23, 2023** Agnico Eagle files additional information (listed in the PHC Decision Update) with the Board;
- **On or before Wednesday, July 12, 2023** any party requiring French language simultaneous interpretation to participate in the Public Hearing advises the Board;
- **On or before Wednesday, July 26, 2023** the Interveners, members of the public or other interested parties file their final written submissions in respect of the Extension Proposal;
- **On or before Wednesday, August 9, 2023** Agnico Eagle files their responses to parties' final written submissions and the Proponent's final written submissions;
- **On or before Wednesday, August 23, 2023** all parties must file the presentations/statements they intend to present to the Board during the Public Hearing; and
- **September 12-20, 2023** (excluding Sunday, September 17) the Board conducts the site visit and Public Hearing associated with the Extension Proposal in-person in Rankin Inlet.

The Board acknowledges the significant progress that Agnico Eagle and the parties have made since the first Pre-Hearing Conference and encourages all parties to continue to have robust discussions with Agnico Eagle and amongst themselves to focus on remaining outstanding issues and identify potential resolutions to the extent possible.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the PHC Decision Update or the NIRB's assessment of the "Meliadine Extension" Project Proposal, please contact Tara Arko, Director, Technical Services, at (867) 983-4611 or via email at tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kaviq Kaluraq
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): Update to the Nunavut Impact Review Board's Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's "Meliadine Extension" Project Proposal (NIRB File No. 11MN034) (*April 3, 2023*)

cc: Meliadine Distribution List
Jennifer Range, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Stephanie Autut, Nunavut Water Board
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Bert Dean, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Jorgan Aitaok, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut
Laura Harris, Government of Nunavut
Natalie D'Souza, Northern Projects Management Office
Kaitlyn Bakker, Northern Projects Management Office
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Alasdair Beattie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Paul Harper, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Julie Anderson, Health Canada
Adam Downing, Transport Canada
Vikash Narine, Natural Resources Canada
Peter Unger, Natural Resources Canada
Pierre-Olivier Emond, Natural Resources Canada
Geoff Bussidor, Sayisi Dene First Nation
Benji Denechezhe, Northlands Denesuline First Nation
Kelly Olson, Sayisi Dene and Northlands Denesuline First Nations
Katie Rasmussen, Athabasca Denesūliné NeNe Land Corporation
Ron Robillard, Athabasca Denesūliné NeNe Land Corporation