



NIRB File No.: 10EN006
AANDC File No.: N2010C0002
NWB File No.: 2BB-MEL0914

March 23, 2012

The Honourable John Duncan
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
c/o Jeff Mercer, Manager Lands Administration
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Via email: jeff.mercer@aandc.gc.ca and landsmining@aandc.gc.ca

**Re: Application exempt from Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA:
Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Meliadine River – Mining Exploration" project**

Dear Jeff Mercer:

On March 9, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for an extension to AANDC Land Use Permit (No. N2010C0002) for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM) "Meliadine River – Mining Exploration" project proposal.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 10EN006) was received by the NIRB from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC, now AANDC) on February 1, 2010 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On March 19, 2010 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of INAC indicating the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The current AANDC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (10EN006) and related file information are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2010/10EN006-Comaplex%20Minerals/>

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

The proposed project was to be located within the Kivalliq region, approximately six kilometres (km) northwest of the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet. The Proponent intended to conduct exploration

diamond drilling and geotechnical drilling in Comaplex's (now AEM) lease located between Iqulugaarjuup Nunanga Territorial Park and Rankin Inlet. The land use permit was proposed for April 1, 2010 to April 30, 2012.

The activities and components associated with the previously screened proposal included:

- Claim staking;
- Surface prospecting and mapping;
- Ground geophysical (magnetic) surveys;
- On land diamond drilling (using a LF70 drill) to assess potential gold deposits. The first year approximately 2500 metres (m) will be drilled. Additional diamond drilling may be conducted in the next two years depending on what is identified in 2010;
- Movement of drill by helicopter to drill sites to different sites;
- Geotechnical drilling on the banks of the Meliadine River (within 31 metres of high water mark) to assess current bedrock conditions in support of a potential all weather-road and bridge (not included in current project proposal);
- Conduct environmental and heritage studies in support of potential all weather-road and bridge over the Meliadine River;
- Use of existing camp at Meliadine Lake or use of facilities at Rankin Inlet;
- Potential daily transportation of crew and equipment from Meliadine Lake camp with helicopter or transportation of crew from Rankin Inlet with vehicles;
- Fuel storage at drill sites;
- Water usage for drilling;
- Use of calcium chloride for drilling purposes; and
- Removal of wastes for disposal at Meliadine Lake camp or at Rankin Inlet.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

AEM is proposing to extend the AANDC Land Use Permit (No. N2010C0002) associated with this project for an additional year to continue their exploration activities as previously proposed.

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

“Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:

(a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or

(b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project.”

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed extension does not change the general scope of the original project activities, and the exceptions noted in NLCA 12.4.3(a) and (b) do not apply. Therefore, this application is exempt from screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original March 19, 2010 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Kelli Gillard, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director

cc: John Witteman, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
David Frenette, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 10EN006 (March 19, 2010)