



NIRB File No.: 10EN006

AANDC File No.: N2014C0017 (*formerly N2010C0002*)

NWB File No.: 2BB-MEL0914

July 25, 2014

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
c/o Tracey McCaie, A/Manager Lands Administration
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Via email: tracey.mccaie@aandc.gc.ca and landsmining@aandc.gc.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Meliadine River-Mining Exploration" project, Kivalliq Region

Dear Tracey McCaie:

On July 16, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (AEM or Proponent) for a new Land Use Permit (LUP) application associated with AEM's "Meliadine River-Mining Exploration" project proposal. On July 22, 2014, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) referred the LUP application (No. N2014C0017; formerly N2010C0002) to the NIRB for screening.

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 January 28, 2010 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this proposal. On March 19, 2010 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of INAC which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

On March 9, 2012 the NIRB received an application for an extension to the AANDC Land Use Permit (No. N2010C0002) for the above-mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the extension request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report to the Minister of AANDC on March 19, 2012.

On January 7, 2013 the NIRB received an application for an additional extension to the AANDC Land Use Permit (No. N2010C0002) for the above mentioned project. After a thorough assessment of the extension request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on January 17, 2013.

The current AANDC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 10EN006) and related file information are available from the NIRB's online public registry at the following location:

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

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

The proposed Meliadine River-Mining Exploration project was to be based at the Meliadine Gold camp approximately 24 kilometres (km) northwest of Rankin Inlet, with associated activities to take place within six km of the community of Rankin Inlet. The Proponent intended to conduct exploration diamond drilling and geotechnical drilling in AEM's lease located between Iqulugaarjuup Nunanga Territorial Park and the hamlet of Rankin Inlet. The activities were proposed to occur from 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, including first year drilling of approximately 2500 metres (m) and additional diamond drilling to be conducted through 2012 depending upon what was identified in 2010;
- Movement of drill by helicopter to various drill 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 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 via helicopter or transportation of crew from Rankin Inlet using vehicles;
- Fuel storage at drill sites;
- Water usage for drilling;
- Use of calcium chloride for drilling purposes; and
- Removal of wastes for disposal at the Meliadine Lake camp or the hamlet of Rankin Inlet.

In both 2012 and 2013, AEM requested extensions to its Land Use Permit (No. N2010C0002) in order to continue with previously proposed exploration activities.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

AEM is currently applying for a new Land Use Permit No. N2014C0017 to replace the previously-issued and expiring permit (N2010C0002), in order to continue with previously permitted exploration activities.

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 new LUP 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 the requirement for 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 require additional clarification, please contact Kelli Gillard, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: David Frenette, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association

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