



Sophia Granchinho
Senior Technical Advisor, Nunavut Impact Review Board

November 25, 2015

RE: Aqigiq HTO Comments on NIRB Screening File No. 15EN049

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has requested communities provide comments by December 4 on Agnico-Eagle's ongoing exploration work south-east of Baker Lake at the Peter, Fox, and Park Lakes projects. These projects form a corridor of development, stretching from Meliadine Lake, to the North-West. The projects are based out of the Meliadine camp, with helicopters supporting operations at the other sites. Activity takes place from May until November. Agnico is seeking permission to conduct activities annually, until 2021.

NIRB is re-examining these projects, because the Nunavut Planning Commission is concerned that they might have cumulative effects on the area. NIRB requested comments regarding whether the projects will cause public concern, whether the projects will have significant impacts, and whether the projects will have cumulative impacts.

The Aqigiq HTO believes that these projects may already be having cumulative impacts on caribou migrations. These impacts will worsen if new and stricter terms and conditions are not applied to these projects, especially if they lead to further development in the area. The Aqigiq HTO has prepared the following comments for the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

Qamanirjuaq caribou migrate through the project area in the spring, on their way to Chesterfield Inlet. Harvesting Qamanirjuaq caribou near this water channel is an important harvesting activity of Chesterfield Inlet Inuit. However, for the past few years this herd has not arrived at this location in large numbers. This may be partially due to disturbance to its migration routes. The caribou migrate back through this area in the fall, on their way to the tree-line.

The Aqigiq HTO recommends the following:

- Aspects of the exploration projects should have seasonal shutdowns during the migration seasons. There should be no aerial geophysical surveys, exploratory drilling, or helicopter travel between Meliadine and other sites during migrations.
- Halt all other project activities when caribou migrate through the area.

Thank you very much for considering our concerns and recommendations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barney Aggark', written in a cursive style.

Barney Aggark
Chair, Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers Organization



Sophia Granchinho
Senior Technical Advisor, Nunavut Impact Review Board

November 25, 2015

RE: Aqigiq (Chesterfield Inlet) HTO Comments on NIRB Screening File No. 15EN050

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has requested communities provide comments by December 4 on Agnico-Eagle's ongoing exploration work north of Baker Lake. NIRB is re-examining these projects, because the Nunavut Planning Commission is concerned that they might have cumulative effects on the area.

NIRB requested comments regarding whether the projects will cause public concern, whether the projects will have significant impacts, and whether the projects will have cumulative impacts.

The Aqigiq HTO believes that these projects are already having significant cumulative impacts and have already caused public concern. These impacts and this concern will worsen if new and stricter terms and conditions are not applied to these projects. The Aqigiq HTO has prepared the following comments for the Nunavut Impact Review Board, regarding marine shipping.

Agnico's exploration work north of Baker Lake is a part of Agnico's larger development in the area, supported by marine shipping through Chesterfield Inlet. The ship and barge traffic associated with Agnico's projects through Chesterfield Inlet has had negative and significant impacts on marine mammals and marine mammal hunting by the community of Chesterfield Inlet. Hunters from Chesterfield Inlet and Baker Lake have repeatedly reported significant seasonal disturbances to marine mammal hunting in Chesterfield Inlet (see Appendix A). If Agnico's exploration projects in the area eventually become mines, it will prolong and worsen the disturbance to our way of life. The Aqigiq HTO is therefore very concerned about the cumulative effects of induced development associated with these projects.

To mitigate these impacts, the Chesterfield HTO recommends:

- 1) Regulators in Nunavut place a limit on the amount of ship and barge traffic permitted through Chesterfield Inlet in each shipping season.
- 2) Agnico, NIRB, and other regulators consider whether or not technological updates (e.g. new, quieter ships) may reduce disturbance to marine mammals in the area.

Thank you very much for considering our recommendations,



Barney Aggark

Chair, Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers Organization