



NIRB File No.: 15EN049

NPC File No.: 148439

January 30, 2017

David Frenette
Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
P.O. Box 87, chemin de la mine Goldex
Val-d'Or, QC J0Y1Z0

Sent via email: david.frenette@agnicoeagle.com

Re: Notice of Screening for Agnico Eagle Mine Ltd.'s "Parker Lake Temporary Exploration Camp and Airstrip and Cone Hill Exploration Project" proposal

Dear David Frenette:

On January 23, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (Agnico Eagle) "Parker Lake Temporary Exploration Camp and Airstrip and Cone Hill Exploration Project" proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan. The NPC noted that the previous conformity determinations issued on October 21, 2015 and September 9, 2016 for the activities associated with the current proposal continue to apply and determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the project because of the proposed new camp and airstrip.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada* (Nunavut Agreement) and Section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal. Due to the proposal containing activities that are sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **15EN049**, the NIRB views this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and has assigned this proposal with this previous file number. Please reference this file number in all future related correspondence. A summary of the previously screened project activities can be found in **Appendix A**.

PROJECT SCOPE

Project Scope:

The proposed "Parker Lake Temporary Exploration Camp and Airstrip and Cone Hill Exploration Project" is located within the Kivalliq region, approximately 88 kilometres (km) east of Baker Lake and 160 km northwest of Rankin Inlet. The Proponent intends to establish an

exploration camp and airstrips at the Parker Lake exploration site and commence exploration for gold mineralization at the Cone Hill exploration site. The project is proposed to take place from May 2017 to September 2021. The scope of activities previously approved for these ongoing exploration activities (NIRB File No. 15EN049) has been included within **Appendix A**.

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Mobilization of 20 personnel to the Parker Lake and Cone Hill project site(s);
- Establishment of a temporary 20-person tent camp and associated facilities at the Parker Lake to support exploration activities;
- Use of generator sets for camp electricity;
- Daily withdrawal of water from proximal lakes, rivers and ponds to support exploration activities;
- Transportation, drummed-storage and use of up to 41,000 litres (L) of diesel, 41,000 L of aviation fuel, and 2050 L of gasoline;
- Construction and operation of an ice airstrip on a lake and a land-based airstrip on an esker near the Parker Lake exploration site;
- Initiation of prospecting, geophysical surveys, and diamond drilling at the Cone Hill exploration site;
- Use of helicopters and T-Otter planes to transport personnel, material and equipment from the Meliadine Gold Project site (NIRB File No. 11MN034) to the exploration site(s);
- Use of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and tracked tractors to support exploration activities;
- Use of portable toilets for human waste;
- Use of a multiple-chamber incineration of domestic waste;
- Disposal of camp greywater in a natural depression; and
- Transportation of hazardous, combustible and non-combustible wastes to approved facilities for disposal.

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Parker Lake Temporary Exploration Camp and Airstrip and Cone Hill Exploration Project
- NIRB File No.: 15EN049
- Application No.: 125048

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form (formerly the NIRB Part 1 form in English)*

- *NIRB Part 1 Summary Form in Inuktitut*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *Project Description*
- *Map noting locations of project components*
- *Wildlife Protection and Response Plan*
- *Spill Contingency Plan*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by Agnico Eagle's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **February 20, 2017**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca, via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Parker Lake Temporary Exploration Camp and Airstrip and Cone Hill Exploration Project
- NIRB File No.: 15EN049
- Application No.: 125048

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4616 or at kboaantwi@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kofi Boa-Antwi, M.Sc., R.P.Bio.
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
 Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
 Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
 Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
 Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English and Inuktitut)
 Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)

APPENDIX A: PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSALS

The original proposal (NIRB File No. 15EN049) was received by the NIRB from the Nunavut Planning Commission on October 21, 2015 and was screened by the Board pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada* (Nunavut Agreement) and Section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA). On January 18, 2016 the NIRB issued a Screening Decision Report to the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, pursuant to paragraph 92(1)(a) of the NuPPAA, which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (the Proponent) original "Peter, Fox, and Parker Lakes" project proposal was located in the Kivalliq region, between 40 and 140 kilometres northwest of Rankin Inlet. The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct exploration activities for gold mineralization. The project was proposed to take place annually from May to November 2016 through 2021.

The activities and components associated with the original proposal included:

- Exploration activities proposed to be typically conducted between May to November to include ground or aerial geophysical survey, prospecting and diamond drilling (on-land and on-ice drilling activities);
- Use of existing facilities at Meliadine site for the approximately 10 staff for approximately 30 days a year;
- Use of helicopters to move drills, fuel, equipment and workers;
- Drilling approximately 30 holes per year between a depth of 150 to 250 metres on average. The number of drill holes and depth could be adjusted depending on the results obtained during the drilling program;
- Use of water from local ponds or lakes for drilling activities;
- Use and storage of fuel from the existing Meliadine site for drilling activities with up to 40 L of gasoline, 3600 L of diesel, 2050 L of jet fuel and 200 pounds of propane stored at each active drill site;
- Use and storage of hazardous materials and chemicals including drilling additives with the associated wastes (hazardous and non-hazardous) returned to the Meliadine camp daily for proper disposal; and
- Completion of ongoing archaeological investigations within the planned exploration area.

On September 9, 2016 the NIRB commenced the screening of the Proponent's "Parker, Peter and Fox Lakes Winter Access" project proposal. Due to the proposal containing activities that were sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB File No.15EN049, the NIRB viewed this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project. Following screening, the NIRB confirmed that the project proposal remained subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original January 18, 2016 Screening Decision Report along with additional terms and conditions as issued on December 23, 2016.

The Proponent's "Parker, Peter and Fox Lakes Winter Access" project was located within the Kivalliq region, between Baker Lake and the approved Meliadine Gold Mine Project site. The

Proponent intended to transport materials between Baker Lake and the Meliadine Gold Mine Project site to the Parker, Peter and Fox lakes exploration sites to support exploration activities. The program was proposed to take place annually from January to May, 2017 through 2022.

The activities and components associated with the September 9, 2016 amendment application included:

- Completion of approximately thirty (30) overland trips annually from either Baker Lake or Meliadine Gold Mine Project site;
- Overland trips to utilize portions of the main access route previously authorized to M&T Enterprises Ltd. for transport of Agnico Eagle materials (NIRB File No. 15RN010), with the addition of new spur connections to the specified exploration project drop off points;
- Use of three (3) 45,000 pound (lb) tracked tractors (Challenger) and 13,230 lbs steel sleds, with each tractor having a payload capacity of 66,000 lbs;
- Transportation and use of up to 1800 litres (L) of diesel, up to 75 L each of hydraulic oil motor oil, and glycol, for operation of the tractors;
- Transportation of drills, core boxes, snow cats, pick-up trucks, and miscellaneous travel supplies;
- Collection of grey water incurred on the road and disposal at the nearest approved disposal location, either Baker Lake or the Meliadine Gold Mine Project site;
- Collection of garbage produced on the road and disposal at the nearest approved disposal location, either Baker Lake or the Meliadine Gold Mine Project site; and
- Use of one (1) helicopter and two (2) snowmobiles to transport personnel to and from either Baker Lake or the Meliadine Gold Mine Project site, and the Parker, Peter, Fox exploration camps.