



NIRB File No.: 15EN049
NPC File No.: 148439

March 6, 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: Opportunity to address comments received regarding 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). On January 30, 2017 the NIRB circulated a public notice of the screening for this project, inviting interested parties to provide comments directly to the NIRB by February 20, 2017. The NIRB subsequently granted an extension of one week to the commenting deadline based on a request by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

On or before February 27, 2017 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA)
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)

Amended comments were received from the KIA on March 3, 2017 for this project proposal. All comment submissions received by the NIRB relating 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

A *summary* of the public concerns reflected in the comment submissions relate to the following:

Project Details

- Information lacking regarding drilling operations such as the potential number of drill targets, the types of drills used and the timing of operations at the Cone Hill exploration project which limits parties ability to understand the impacts of the proposed activities; please provide the information outlined. If drilling is proposed over waterbodies during winter, Proponent should use reverse circulation drill to avoid deleterious substances from entering water.
- Information lacking on the number of tents/structures that would be on site, the heating source for each tent.

Hazardous and Waste Management

- Conflicting information presented in application regarding location and methods of waste incineration noted in application; recommend clarification on location of incineration, and if new incinerator to be used at Parker Lake camp, provide information on types of wastes to be incinerated, the model and the location of the incinerator(s) to be used.
- Information lacking on the availability of secondary containment at the camp location; require details be provided on how fuel drums and other dangerous goods would be stored including storage practices.

Wildlife Impacts

- Concerns regarding potential impacts from the proposal on the migratory bird breeding season and to Species at Risk.
- Information lacking in the proposal on impacts to caribou, muskoxen and wolf hunting in the area from the project proposal.
- Information lacking to support an assessment of potential project impacts to wildlife. Information requested as follows:
 - Details regarding the location of drill targets, the types of drills to be used and the timing of operations to enable an assessment of potential overlap of project activities with migratory bird breeding periods.
- Requested the Wildlife Protection and Response Plan be updated to include:
 - The following statement to be in line with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* as follows: “The destruction or disruption of wildlife nests, eggs, dens, burrows, and the like, is prohibited at all times”
 - Include list of species at risk that may be encountered in the project area as noted in the *Species at Risk Act*.
 - Mitigation measures related to potential impacts to wildlife impacts in the area.

Community Consultation

- Information not provided on any detailed records of community engagement/consultation activities undertaken by the Proponent to discuss community concerns regarding the proposed new activities. Parties previously noted, for the original project proposal, similar deficiencies with respect to the consultation approach and recommended that the Proponent consult with any potentially affected communities prior to the commencement

of the project. To date, no records or schedules of consultation have been presented to parties. Recommended the Proponent conduct community consultation prior to the start of the new activities.

Cumulative Effects

- An assessment of potential cumulative impacts of the proposed project was not addressed in the amendment. Recommended that an assessment be completed to address potential cumulative impacts and to consider the project as a whole, including previously approved activities associated with the project, and other past and reasonably foreseeable projects in the area.

The NIRB would like to provide Agnico Eagle with an opportunity to address the comments noted above and within the comment submissions prior to the Board rendering its determination for this screening assessment and issuing its subsequent Screening Decision Report to the responsible Minister(s). The NIRB respectfully requests that a response be provided directly to the NIRB by **March 20, 2017**.

If Agnico Eagle determines that the time required to supply a written response is significantly greater than two (2) weeks, the Board requests written notification and an anticipated date for submission be provided as soon as possible.

Please send any forthcoming submissions directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca, or through the online public registry at www.nirb.ca.

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