



**NIRB File No.: 17EA068**

*Related to NIRB File No. 16EN035*

**NPC File No.: 148849**

June 12, 2018

David Frenette  
Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.  
PO Box 87, Chemin de la mine Goldex  
Val-d'Or, Québec J9P 4N9

*Sent via email: [david.frenette@agnicoeagle.com](mailto:david.frenette@agnicoeagle.com)*

**Re: Notice of Screening for Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Whale Cove Area, Exploration Projects" Project Proposal**

Dear David Frenette:

On May 31, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (Agnico Eagle) "Whale Cove Area, Exploration Projects" 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 determination issued on November 29, 2017 for the activities associated with the project proposal still applies, and has determined that the current proposal is a significant modification to the previous project because of the change in location and additional camp.

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*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*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 **17EA068**, 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:***

The “Huckleberry Exploration” project activities as previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 17EA068) included seasonal mineral exploration activities and construction of an exploration camp at the “Huckleberry-0001” property approximately 65 kilometres (km) west of Whale Cove. A complete description of the scope of activities previously approved has been included within [Appendix A](#).

Agnico Eagle is currently proposing the “Whale Cove Area, Exploration Projects” project, which would be located in a new area within the Kivalliq region, at four (4) separate areas lying within approximately 70 km of Whale Cove. The Proponent intends to continue the exploration activities at the Huckleberry property, and amend the scope of previously approved activities to allow for these new locations of exploration: three (3) exploration areas are within 20 km east or southeast from the Huckleberry exploration area, and a fourth is approximately 55 km northeast from Huckleberry. The Proponent plans to establish a new exploration camp at this latter location, which would be in addition to the exploration camp the Proponent will be constructing for Huckleberry. The program is proposed to take place seasonally (April to October) from 2018 to 2025.

According to the project proposal, the scope of the amended project includes the following additional undertakings, works or activities at the new exploration areas:

- Conduct prospecting, airborne and ground-based geophysical surveys;
- Conduct on-land and on-ice drilling with the use of one (1) diamond drill and one (1) rab drill;
- Conduct trenching activities (bedrock exposition by overburden removal);
- Establishment of exploration camp and associated facilities to accommodate twenty (20) personnel;
- Use of a D6 bulldozer to move the diamond drill during the winter around drill sites;
- Use of mini-excavator and Zoom Boom;
- Continued use of winter access from the Meliadine Gold Mine and from Whale Cove to transport drills and dozer and other material and equipment on an annual basis using three (3) tracked Challenger tractors;
- Use of two (2) helicopters and possibly one (1) Twin Otter plane to transport material, equipment, and personnel;
- Use of four (4) all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and four (4) snowmobiles to transport personnel around site;
- Transportation, storage and use of 67,400 litres (L) of diesel, 4,100 L of gasoline, and 41,000 L of aviation fuel;
- Transportation, storage and use of chemicals and oil;
- Daily withdrawal of up to 299 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) of water from surrounding waterbodies for camp use and drilling activities;
- Combustible wastes to be incinerated with a standard dual chamber incinerator, or transported offsite to appropriate facility;
- Greywater and drill cuttings to be disposed of in a natural depression;
- Sewage to be incinerated with a standard dual chamber incinerator, or transported south for disposal at authorized facility; and

- Hazardous and non-combustible wastes to be transported south for disposal at accredited facilities.

### ***Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List***

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](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Whale Cove Area, Exploration Projects
- NIRB File No.: 17EA068
- Application No.: 125349

The documents received include:

- *NPC Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application and Conformity Questionnaire*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English, French, and Inuktitut*
- *Maps noting location of the mineral exploration areas*
- *Project Description*
- *Spill Contingency Plan*
- *Waste Management Plan*
- *Wildlife Protection and Response 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 **July 3, 2018**.

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; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

The NIRB also respectfully requests that clarification be provided by the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) regarding whether it is currently accepting/considering applications for land use licences on Inuit Owned Lands (IOL) associated with this project proposal, recognizing previous submissions made by the KIA have indicated that it would not be “accepting applications on IOL parcels inside caribou calving area[s] until the [Nunavut] Land Use Plan is approved”.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto: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](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Whale Cove Area, Exploration Projects
- NIRB File No.: 17EA068
- Application No.: 125349

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact Shanley Thompson, Technical Advisor II at (867) 983-4607 or at [sthompson@nirb.ca](mailto:sthompson@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Shanley Thompson  
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 project proposal NIRB (File No. 17EA068) was received by the NIRB from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission) on November 22, 2017 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and Section 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). On March 23, 2018 the NIRB issued a screening decision pursuant to paragraph 92(2)(a) of the *NuPPAA* to the Minister of Crown – Indigenous and Northern Affairs which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (Agnico Eagle, or Proponent) "Huckleberry Exploration" project was located in the Kivalliq region, approximately 65 kilometres (km) west from Whale Cove. The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct mineral exploration activities at the "Huckleberry-0001" property.<sup>1,2</sup> The program was proposed to take place from 2018 to 2025.

According to the previously screened project proposal, the scope of the project included the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Conduct prospecting, airborne and ground-based geophysical surveys;
- Conduct on-land and on-ice drilling with the use of one (1) diamond drill and one (1) rab drill;
- Conduct trenching activities (bedrock exposition by overburden removal);
- Establishment of exploration camp and associated facilities to accommodate twenty (20) personnel;
- Use of two (2) helicopters and one (1) Twin Otter plane to transport material, equipment, and personnel to site and the use of one (1) helicopter to transport personnel and equipment to drill sites;
- Use of a D6 bulldozer and mini excavator to move the diamond drill during the winter around drill sites;
- Use of existing airstrip approximately 400 metres (m) long;
- Winter access from the Meliadine Gold Mine and from Whale Cove area to transport drills and dozer and other material and equipment on an annual basis using three (3) tracked Challenger tractors;
- Use of two (2) all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and two (2) snowmobiles to transport personnel around site;
- Transportation, storage and use of 107,000 litres (L) of diesel, 4,100 L of gasoline, and 41,000 L of aviation fuel;
- Transportation, storage and use of chemicals and oil;
- Daily withdrawal of up to 299 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) of water from surrounding waterbodies for camp use and drilling activities;

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<sup>1</sup> The Huckleberry-0001 property is one of four claims included in John Tugak's project proposal screened by the NIRB in 2016 (NIRB File No. 16EN035).

<sup>2</sup> Historic exploration activities were conducted on this property by a previous Proponent but these activities were not assessed by the NIRB.

- Combustible wastes to be incinerated with a standard dual chamber incinerator, or transported offsite to appropriate facility;
- Greywater and drill cuttings to be disposed of in a natural depression;
- Sewage to be incinerated with a standard dual chamber incinerator, or transported south for disposal at authorized facility; and
- Hazardous and non-combustible wastes to be transported south for disposal at accredited facilities.