



Crown-Indigenous Relations
and Northern Affairs Canada

Relations Couronne-Autochtones
et Affaires du Nord Canada

Nunavut Regional Office
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Your file - Votre référence
17EA068
Our file - Notre référence
CIDMS # 1222383

July 3, 2018

Shanley Thompson
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0
Via electronic mail to: info@nirb.ca

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

Dear Ms. Thompson,

On June 12, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Whale Cove Area, Exploration Projects" project proposal. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and offers the response below as it pertains to the NIRB's request:

Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;

In its project application, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (the Proponent) refers to past consultations that were conducted for the Huckleberry project, which did not include the currently proposed activities of four additional exploration areas and the construction of a second camp. The Proponent also notes that meetings to discuss the new mineral properties will be planned soon. Therefore, given the lack of evidence of community consultation/engagement activities undertaken by the Proponent to discuss the specifics of the proposed activities, CIRNAC is unable to comment on whether the amended project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern. CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent conduct public consultations before the commencement of the project activities, should it be approved to proceed.



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);

While exploration projects, as defined by the scope of works included in this project proposal, could potentially cause adverse eco-systemic impacts that are predictable and mitigable with known technology, CIRNAC notes that there are insufficient details in the information provided in the application materials regarding the mitigation measures that the Proponent intends to use for on-land drilling, on-ice drilling, and trenching. Further to the Proponent's intention/requirement to apply for land use authorizations and a water licence, CIRNAC recommends the Proponent provide information on how it intends to mitigate against potential impacts to the environment from these activities.

Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal;

The change in the scale and scope of the current project proposal compared to the project proposal that was submitted in 2016, and amended in 2017, might warrant reconsideration of the potential for cumulative impacts. INAC recommends that the Proponent assess the potential for cumulative eco-systemic and socio-economic impacts that could result from the impacts of the proposed project in combination with the past, present, and foreseeable future activities.

Additionally, the Board respectfully requests that the KIA and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) assist the NIRB by providing an indication of any currently permitted or reasonably foreseeable (i.e., recently submitted to either the KIA or INAC) prospecting, staking or locating a mineral claim projects within close proximity of the project area for this project proposal:

Subsurface mineral rights are issued by the Mining Recorder's Office. The most current display of mineral tenure can be found on the Nunavut Map Viewer at the following link: <https://services.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/nms-scn/gv/index.html>. Please note that the issuance of a subsurface right does not include surface rights access or the permission to conduct land use activity. For more information please contact the Mining Recorder's Office at 867-975-4275.

CIRNAC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and looks forward to working with the NIRB and the Proponent throughout any further review phases related to this project. Should you have any questions, please contact Julia Prokopick at (867) 975-4567 or by e-mail at julia.prokopick@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

Felexce Ngwa
Manager, Impact Assessment