



July 10th, 2018

Shanley Thompson
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Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut
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Re: NIRB File No. 17EA068 Opportunity to address comments received regarding Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd's "Whale Cove Area, Exploration Projects" project proposal

Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd (Agnico Eagle) appreciates the opportunity to provide supplementary information regarding this exploration project.

As requested by the NIRB, please find below the supplementary information concerning the following topics:

1. Lack of public consultation.
2. Limited information regarding mitigation for drilling and trenching activities.
3. Limited information regarding remediation for potential oil spills.
4. Limited information regarding fish and fish habitat in reference to water withdrawal.
5. Potential for cumulative effects.
6. Conducting activities within the calving and post-calving grounds of the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd.



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1. Lack of public consultation

Future consultation meetings will include presentation of the proposed exploration projects, and also;

- Agnico Eagle's corporate background and vision;
- The steps in exploration activities;
- The Agnico Eagle's activities located in the Kivalliq Region and associated timelines;
- Caribou mitigation measures;
- Employment opportunities;
- Local purchasing.

The Hamlet of Whale Cove supports the proposed mineral exploration project if Agnico Eagle respects/applies the following:

- Helicopter/twin otter maintain an altitude of 1000 feet and more;
- Agnico Eagle applies caribou mobile protection i.e. activities to cease when caribou are in the area;
- Ensure water quality of lakes/rivers is maintained to enhance fish population;
- Fuel is stored properly to prevent spillage;
- No restrictions on traditional/recreational use/access to land or lakes in the area are created;
- Ensure to minimize the destruction of land when using machinery, ATV and snowmobiles;
- Follow regulations regarding reporting of heritage resources in the area;
- Ensure maximum employment of Whale Cove residents;
- Ensure maximum support and use of Whale Cove businesses;

The Hamlet also suggests/recommends to:

- Regularly conduct/meet with the Whale Cove Hamlet and HTO on plans and activities;
- Provide funding to the Whale Cove HTO to be used to hire "wildlife monitors".



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2. Limited information regarding mitigation for drilling and trenching activities.

Drilling and trenching activities are well known activities with highly predictable and mitigable potential adverse effects with known technology. Standard mitigation measures for drilling and trenching include for example:

- Respect of protection buffers around water bodies;
- Disposal of drilling waste and excavated material at more than 31 metres from a water body and where direct flow into a water body is not possible. This also includes the drilling waste produced during drilling on-ice; Monitoring of water quality when drilling on ice;
- Removal of drilling casings once completed;
- Replacement of the material excavated for the bedrock exposition.

3. Limited information regarding remediation for potential oil spills.

The Spill Contingency Plan section 5.6, Disposal of Spilled Material, plans that "All contaminated spill pads and booms are placed in Quatrex bags or drums and contaminated water is placed in drums for shipment to an approved disposal facility. All contaminated soil is placed in a temporary site to be treated later or is stored in Quatrex bags or drums and transported to an approved disposal facility."

At this time, it is not planned to have a land farm at this project, so the plan is to temporarily store these materials in appropriate containers and in a seacan ready for transport to an approved disposal facility during the sealift season.



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4. Limited information regarding fish and fish habitat in reference to water withdrawal

To ensure fish protection during water withdrawal, water intakes with appropriate intake mesh sizes will be used as described in the “Freshwater intake End-of-Pipe fish screen guideline” published by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. To ensure protection of water bodies, including fish habitat, protection buffers are respected around water bodies during exploration activities. Drilling waste (cuttings) has to be disposed of at least 31 meters from the ordinary High Water Mark of any water body, at a site where direct flow into a water body is not possible and no additional impacts are created.

5. Potential for cumulative effects

With the application of the Agnico Eagle management plans and procedures and the application of the different terms and conditions included in the various authorizations needed for such exploration activities, any residual impacts are expected to be reduced and such will limit or eliminate potential for cumulative effects.

6. Conducting activities within the calving and post-calving grounds of the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd

According to the spatial data included in the 2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan, the proposed exploration project is not located within the calving grounds, but in the post-calving.

Agnico Eagle believes that protection of the caribou in the context of mineral exploration can be achieved by using Mobile Caribou Protection. This protection is considered to be efficient in the long term to ensure caribou protection, even when females calve outside the protection boundaries.



With this protection measure, when a caribou herd is seen or is known approaching an exploration activity, the activity is stopped when the herd arrives inside a determined protection buffer to let the caribous quietly pass the area. Only once the caribous have left the protection area, can the exploration activities resume. These protection measures have been in place at Agnico Eagle exploration projects for many years and are described in the "Wildlife Protection and Response Plan".

Agnico Eagle's participation to collaring program

Adapting our exploration and mining activities to caribou movements is important for the protection of caribou herds in Nunavut. Protection of the herd starts with the reliable collection and use of data, observations from environmental staff, collaboration with Inuit stakeholders and awareness from management. We use government collaring data to make informed monitoring decisions, including the need to increase caribou surveys near our activities. As a result, since 2008, Agnico Eagle has invested and created a strong partnership with the Government of Nunavut and has funded the collaring and caribou monitoring program. The location information of collared caribou is now provided weekly to Agnico Eagle by the Government of Nunavut, and twice weekly when collared caribou approach one Agnico Eagle's mineral properties. This information is used as a very important tool to reduce the risk of disrupting the caribou and is a proactive approach.

We believe this additional information and the clarifications provided here will meet the NIRB's expectations and that they highlight Agnico Eagle's willingness to collaborate with the communities and local stakeholders. Please contact the undersigned if you require additional information.

David Frenette
Environmental Coordinator

