



MELIADINE DIVISION

**All Weather Access Road and
Rankin Inlet Road Bypass Den Survey**

May 2019

NIRB Project Certificate 006

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1 Background

In accordance with NIRB Project Certificate 006, Condition 53:

Prior to construction of Project infrastructure and Phase 2 of the all-weather access road, the Proponent shall conduct a survey that is sufficient to locate any dens of foxes, bears or wolverines that could be damaged or destroyed during construction or operation of the Project.

In addition, the Terrestrial Environment Management and Monitoring Plan Section 2.3 has monitoring conditions related to den surveys. This report was prepared to present the 2019 den survey monitoring program. In 2019, den survey monitoring was completed along the Rankin Inlet bypass road on May 8 and the All Weather Access Road on May 11, 2019. Den survey monitoring regarding Phase 2 of the all-weather access road will be provided prior to its construction, which is currently planned for 2024.

This report summarizes den survey methodology, results and discussion of the 2019 den survey on the Meliadine All Weather Access Road ("AWAR") and the Rankin Inlet Bypass Road ("Bypass Road").

2 Den Survey Methodology

The 2019 den survey was completed on May 8 on the Bypass Road and May 11 on the AWAR. The purpose of the den survey was to locate carnivore dens. Carnivore abundance in these areas is relatively low and includes the following species:

- Arctic fox,
- Arctic wolves,
- Polar bears,
- Grizzly bears, and
- Wolverine.

The most abundant carnivore species in the bypass area is the Arctic fox followed by the Arctic wolf. Polar bears are occasionally observed while Grizzly bears and Wolverines are rarely observed in the area. Therefore, the focus of the survey was on Arctic fox and Arctic wolf dens.

The priority for den surveying includes areas of suitable habitat along the bypass road. These areas mainly consist of eskers and previously known locations of fox observations from on-site staff. The survey area is illustrated in yellow on the aerial photos of the AWAR (Figure 1) and the Bypass Road (Figure 2) in Appendix A. Photos of the Bypass Road survey are provided in Appendix B, and photos of the AWAR are provided in Appendix C.

Surveys are conducted by qualified personnel and consist of Environmental Technicians with field experience and training provided by Agnico Eagle Environmental Coordinators.

Areas are searched on foot along the base of esker slopes and slope ridges along the height of land to ensure that all potential dens are located and inspected. When a den site is located it is inspected on foot to determine the status (i.e. inactive, active, pups present, ect...). Particular attention is made to ensure all confirmed dens are from Arctic fox or Arctic wolves and not ground squirrels (i.e. sik sik).

The objective of the survey is to complete the survey as soon as possible following the snow melt.

3 Results and Discussion

No carnivore dens were observed along the Bypass Road during the den survey completed on May 5, 2019. One ground squirrel den was observed during the survey, however it was inactive. Photos of the survey are provided in Appendix B.

During the May 11, 2019 den survey on the AWAR, no carnivore dens were observed. Photos of the survey are provided in Appendix C.

4 Conclusion

In conclusion, a den survey was completed by Environmental staff on May 8 on the Rankin Inlet Bypass Road and on May 11, 2019 on the Meliadine All Weather Access Road to determine the presence of active carnivore dens, with focus on Arctic fox and Arctic wolf dens. No Arctic fox or Arctic wolf dens were observed during the survey and therefore there are no further actions required by Agnico Eagle in 2019. One ground squirrel den was located along the Bypass Road but was inactive.

Appendix A

Aerial Photo



Figure 1: All Weather Access Road Carnivore Den Survey Area



Figure 2: Rankin Inlet Bypass Road Carnivore Den Survey Area

Appendix B

Rankin Inlet Bypass Road Survey Photos



Photo 1: Bypass Road Den Survey



Photo 2: Bypass Road Den Survey



Photo 3: Bypass Road Den Survey



Photo 4: Bypass Road Den Survey

Appendix C

All Weather Access Road Survey Photos



Photo 1 and 2: Kilometer 8 Den Survey Area



Photo 3 and 4: Kilometer 10 Den Survey Area

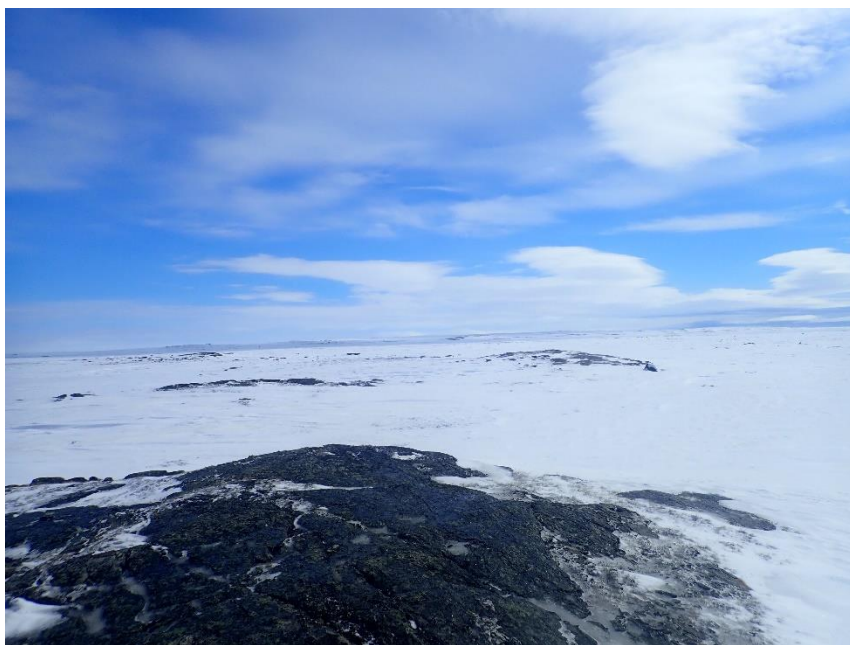


Photo 5 and 6: Kilometer 15 Den Survey Area



Photo 7 and 8: Kilometer 18 Den Survey Area



Photo 9 and 10: Kilometer 21 Den Survey Location



Photo 11 and 12: Kilometer 28 Den Survey