



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

On April 4, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (Agnico Eagle) "Whale Cove Area Exploration" 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 for the related NPC file no.: 148647 and 148849 issued on November 29, 2017 and May 31, 2018 for the activities associated with the current proposal continues to apply and has determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the project because of the significant increase in the land area that will undergo mineral exploration activities, and that those locations are within the designated Keewatin Caribou Protection areas.

Following an internal evaluation of the project scope submitted for the “Whale Cove Area Exploration”, the NIRB will be screening the project proposal as a new project because of the new exploration area being proposed and has assigned it file number **19EN027**. 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 s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On April 3, 2019 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that sufficient information is provided to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and commence screening. On April 5, 2019 following a preliminary completeness check of the proposal as submitted, the NIRB determined that the proposal did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening and on April 18, 2019 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On April 26, 2019 the NIRB followed up with the Proponent requesting an online application.

On May 3, 2019 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed "Whale Cove Area Exploration" project is located within the Kivalliq region, between 55 and 80 kilometres (km) southwest from the community of Whale Cove. The Proponent intends to conduct mineral prospecting and geophysical surveys in an area that Agnico Eagle has titled Snow Mineral Property. The program is proposed to take place from July 2018 to September 2025.

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of helicopter to transport equipment and personnel from Whale Cove and Huckleberry camp to the proposed prospecting locations;
- Use of helicopter to conduct geophysical surveys annually;
- Conduct mineral prospecting within the Snow Mineral Property;
- Transportation, storage and use of approximately 4,100 litres (L) of aviation fuel at the existing Huckleberry Exploration Campsite (NIRB File No. 17EA068);
- Accommodations to be sourced in Whale Cove or at the Huckleberry campsite; and
- All waste generated would be brought back to the Meliadine Mine (NIRB File No. 11MN034) or Huckleberry campsite for proper disposal.

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. However, the NIRB observes that the results from the above prospecting and surveying activities could lead to Agnico Eagle determining that additional mineral exploration activities would be necessary (e.g., drilling, establishment of temporary camp(s), etc.) for this mineral tenure. The NIRB expects that any potential future mineral exploration activities not described in the above scope would be assessed as a significant amendment to the "Whale Cove Area Exploration", NIRB File No. 19EN027, under s. 87(1) of the *NuPPAA* should it be formally proposed.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125460.

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application and Conformity Questionnaire*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Summary in English, Inuktitut and French*
- *Maps noting*
 - *Mineral properties;*
 - *Snow expansion location.*

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 **June 12, 2019**.

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at 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/project/125460.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-5627 or tmaksagak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Talia Maksagak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English and Inuktitut)
Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Brenda Osmond, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Ashley Burton, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada