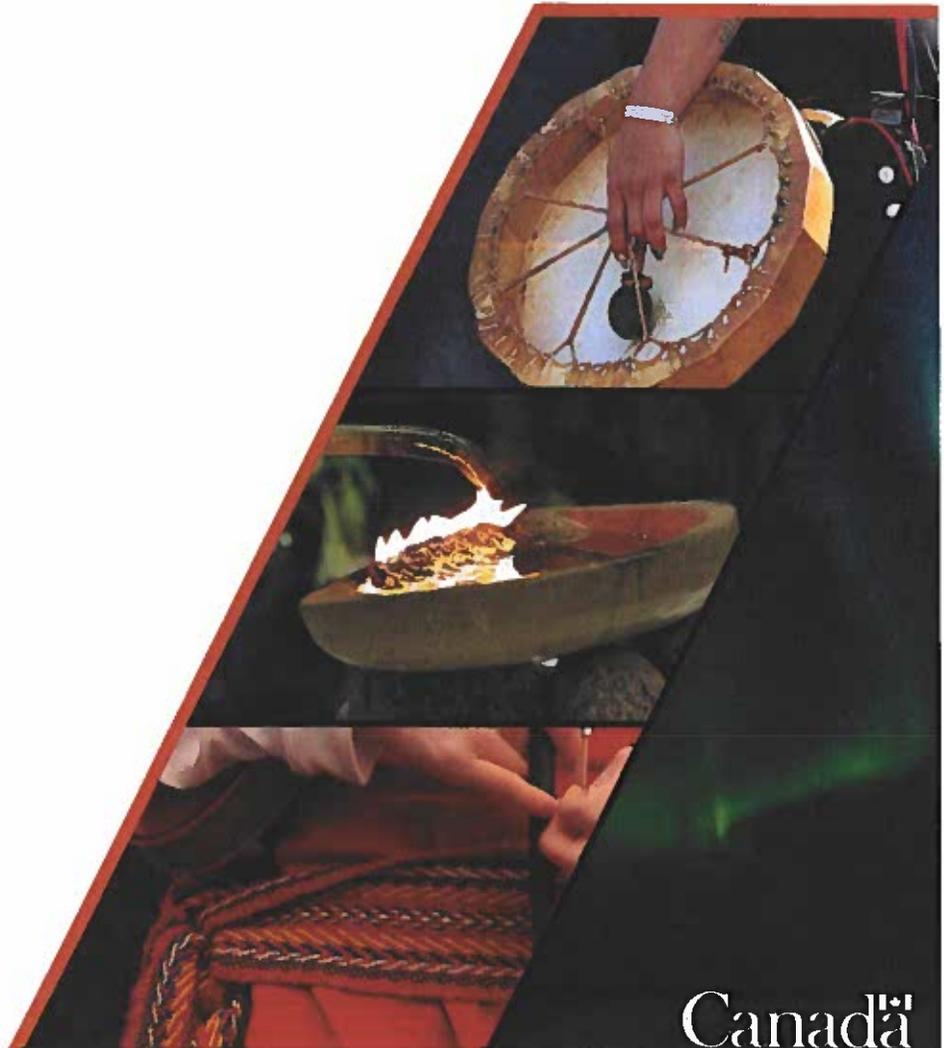




# CIRNAC COMMENTS TO NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening for Agnico Eagle Mine Ltd's "Whale Cove Area Exploration" Project Proposal



Nunavut Regional Office  
P.O. Box 100  
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Your file - Votre référence  
NIRB file #19EN027  
Our file - Notre référence  
CIDM #1252687

June 12, 2019

Talia Maksagak  
Junior Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board  
PO Box 1360  
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0  
Via electronic mail to: [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca)

Dear Ms. Maksagak,

**Re: Notice of Screening for Agnico Eagle Mine Ltd's "Whale Cove Area Exploration" Project Proposal**

On May 22, 2019, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on Agnico Eagle Mine Ltd's "Whale Cove Area Exploration" project proposal. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) reviewed the project proposal and related documents and offers the responses 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 "its different Nunavut Exploration projects". CIRNAC finds it is unclear if these past consultations included the currently proposed project activities within the proposed exploration area and therefore, is unable to comment on whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern.

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent develop a plan for how it will involve the local community of Whale Cove in this project. The plan should consider the incorporation of Inuit knowledge, or Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit in project design and how the Proponent intends to brief the community members about specific project activities for the proposed project.



CIRNAC also recommends the Proponent prepare a brief written summary of the community engagement interactions. The summary should identify specific contacts, in-person meeting dates, records of telephone calls, or email correspondence and refer to the specific matters discussed, including any agreed upon next steps.

**Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;**

CIRNAC recommends the following project specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed:

- Training and employment opportunities be provided for community members,
- Project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities, and
- Local people should be hired to the greatest extent possible and local services used where possible.

**Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal:**

**Drilling Activities**

During review of the project application materials CIRNAC found that there were insufficient details in the information provided regarding the mitigation measures that the Proponent intends to use to mitigate impacts related to drilling activities. CIRNAC recommends the Proponent provide information on how it intends to mitigate potential impacts to the environment related to drilling activities.

**Spill Contingency Plan**

In the project application the Proponent states that a “spill contingency plan is available” however, the Proponent did not submit the spill contingency plan as part of the application’s supporting documents. CIRNAC recommends the Proponent submit a copy of the plan to the NIRB for review prior to commencing project related activities.

**Additionally, the Board respectfully requests that the KIA and Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) assist the NIRB by providing an indication of any currently permitted or reasonably foreseeable (i.e. recently submitted to either the KIA or CIRNAC) 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, as necessary, throughout any further review of this project. If you have any questions, please contact Krista Pooley at (867) 975-4741, or by e-mail at [krista.pooley@canada.ca](mailto:krista.pooley@canada.ca).

Sincerely,



**Felexce Ngwa**  
Manager, Impact Assessment

