



Appendix

GN-01: Project Description	
Department	Environment
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Project Description
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIRB Public Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Agnico Eagle Ltd.'s "Whale Cove Area Exploration" Project Proposal • NIRB Application for Screening #190522 – Whale Cove Area Exploration – Agnico Eagle Ltd. • Main Application Document and Project Description (2019) – Whale Cove Area Exploration – Agnico Eagle Ltd.
CONCERNS	
<p>If the Project were to proceed as described in the Proponent's submission, significant adverse impacts on wildlife, especially caribou, have the potential to occur. The potential for adverse impacts to caribou is due to the project's location in relation to important Qamanirjuaq caribou habitat such as calving grounds, calving ground key access corridors, post-calving grounds, and migration corridors (see figure1).</p> <p>The information provided in the submission is deficient in some aspects. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What "exploration activities" (Main Application Document and Project Description, 2019) entails; • There is no information on noise generated by the exploration activities; • There are substantial deficiencies on the proposed mitigation measures for caribou, most of them being linked to aircraft operations; • There is no information on project closure or remediation. 	
SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>In order to proceed with a more precise determination, the Proponent's submission would need to include, at a minimum, the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A detailed and precise description of project activities, timeframes, duration and intensity, and flight paths. 2. A description of the physical environment, including geomorphological features, hydrography, and acoustic environment. 3. A description of the biological environment, including vegetation and wildlife species (including species at risk). Caribou use and caribou habitat within the proposed footprint of the exploration activities and associated zones of influence must be described. 	

4. The identification of potential impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed exploration activities might have on caribou and other wildlife, and their habitats.
5. A description of how impacts, including cumulative impacts, will be avoided and/or minimized (ex. suspending or relocating activities and structures, timing windows, mitigation measures, etc.), and surveillance methods that will be used to detect the presence of wildlife.
6. A detailed description of remediation work.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

N/A

GN-02: Project Effects on Caribou	
Department	Environment
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Potential Project Effects on Caribou
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIRB Public Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Agnico Eagle Ltd.'s "Whale Cove Area Exploration" Project Proposal • NIRB Application for Screening #190522 – Whale Cove Area Exploration – Agnico Eagle Ltd. • Main Application Document and Project Description (2019) – Whale Cove Area Exploration – Agnico Eagle Ltd.
CONCERNS	
<p>There is overlap with the proposed exploration activities and the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd's following habitats: calving key access corridor, spring migration corridor and post-calving ground. The location of the proposed exploration activities is also situated just outside of the eastern limit of the calving ground for the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd (see figure 1).</p> <p>Migration corridors are critical for movement between important areas of caribou ranges. Disturbance and obstacles along the migration route can displace herds and alter access to critical habitat and forage. Disrupting these migratory routes can lead to a loss of migratory behaviour over time. Caribou populations rely on migration to maximize their access to forage and habitats free of disturbance and thus maximize productivity. If disturbance caused caribou to stop their traditional migratory behaviour, this would substantially lower productivity and abundance, as well as fundamentally change caribou distribution across the landscape, which would dramatically impact subsistence harvesters. Minimizing disturbances along the migration route will remove factors that can cause caribou to shift or abandon their migration routes.</p> <p>Calving grounds and their key access corridors are widely recognized as being of critical importance for maintaining healthy caribou populations. Caribou are especially vulnerable to disturbance during calving. Post-calving grounds are used by caribou for nursing and nutrition uptake. Interrupting nursing and access to good forage can both negatively impact caribou body condition and productivity. Disturbance within post-calving areas can demographically impact caribou populations through higher calf mortality resulting from a reduction in nursing time. Adults can also be affected by displacement from areas with high quality forage required to maintain milk production.</p> <p>Qamanirjuaq caribou calving and post-calving typically occurs from the beginning of June through the first week of July (calving: June 9 – 22; post-calving: June 23 – July 3). During this period, caribou are highly vulnerable to disturbance and energy costs are high for cows as they give birth and feed the calves. This period is considered critical for caribou productivity and the viability of caribou populations, and stringent measures must be put in place to avoid and minimize caribou disturbance and habitat disruption. Caution is also required during spring</p>	

migration (April 15 – June 8) when cows move towards their calving grounds.

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

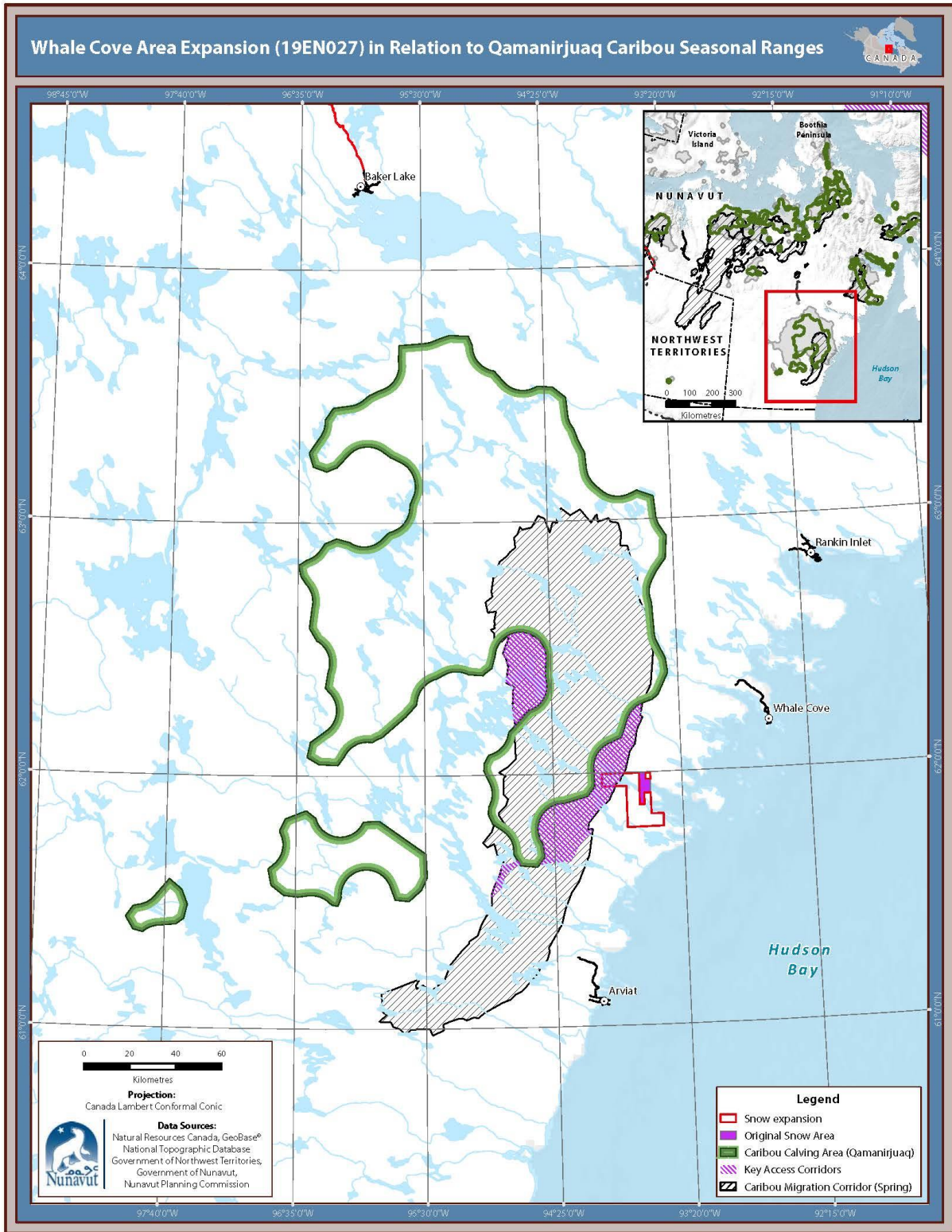
The GN recommends that exploration activities should not proceed in the Qamanirjuaq herd's calving key access corridor (see figure 1). For clarity, only those activities proposed in the area of overlap should not proceed.

For all exploration sites and at all times, in order to avoid or minimize sensory disturbance to caribou outside calving and post-calving grounds, the GN recommends that the Proponent:

1. Avoid flying over calving and post-calving grounds and their key access corridors from June 9 to July 3.
2. Ensure that wildlife will not be harassed or disturbed.
3. Cease Project activities when caribou are observed to be approaching the Project area.
4. Maintain a minimum aircraft flight altitude of 610m above ground level and 600m horizontal distance from caribou.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

N/A



GN-03: Archaeological Assessment	
Department	Culture and Heritage
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Archaeological Assessment
References	NIRB Public Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Agnico Eagle Ltd.'s "Whale Cove Area Exploration" Project Proposal
CONCERNS	
<p>The Proponent intends to carry out prospecting and geophysical activities in their Snow Mineral Property located within the Kivalliq region approximately 55 and 80 kilometres southwest of Whale Cove. The program is proposed to take place from July 2018 to September 2025. The proposed project activities will include prospecting and geophysical activities.</p> <p>A search of the Nunavut Archaeological Site Database indicates that there are recorded archaeological sites within the proposed exploration area, with a concentration of sites near the northeast boundary of the Snow Mineral Property. This however does not preclude the presence of unidentified sites or cultural features as to this day no systematic archaeological reconnaissance has been conducted in this area.</p> <p>Furthermore, the proposed exploration area is located in caribou calving and post-calving grounds, which is typically associated with a high concentration of archaeological sites. On that basis, the Snow Mineral Property is considered to be of high archaeological potential.</p>	
SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>On the basis that no systematic archaeology surveys have been conducted in the proposed exploration area and that potential for the presence of archaeological resources is high, the Department of Culture and Heritage recommends that a field archaeology assessment program be initiated prior to any land disturbance activities.</p> <p>Beginning in 2019 the archaeological field program should consist of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessment of any areas subject to prospecting and geophysical surveys (sampling; drilling; temporary camp; helipad) and all other locations where land disturbance activities are planned to occur. 2. No activities be conducted in the vicinity (50 m buffer zone) of any archaeological/historical sites. If archaeological sites or features are encountered, activities should immediately be interrupted and moved away from this location. Each site encountered needs to be recorded and reported to our office. 	

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
N/A