



NIRB File No.: 19EN027

Related to NIRB File No.: 17EA068 and 16EN035

NPC File No.: 149099

Related to NPC File No.: 148647 & 148849

June 18, 2019

David Frenette
Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
765 Chemin De La Mine Goldex
Val-d'Or Québec J9P 7G4

Sent via email: david.frenette@agnicoeagle.com

Re: Opportunity to address comments received regarding Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Whale Cove Area Exploration" project proposal

Dear David Frenette:

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). On May 22, 2019 the NIRB circulated a public notice of the screening for this project, inviting interested parties to provide comments directly to the NIRB by June 12, 2019.

On or before June 12, 2019 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA)
- Government of Nunavut (GN)
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- Athabasca Denesųliné Né Né Land Corporation (AD)
- Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB)
- Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization (KHTO)
- Sayisi Dene First Nation (SDFN)

All comment submissions received by the NIRB relating to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125460.

A *summary* of the public concerns reflected in the comment submissions relate to the following:

- Deficient information on the proposal related to what the exploration activities entails, noise generated by the activities, and mitigation measures for caribou.
- Concerns that the proposed project would occur within a Caribou Protection Area and the Qamanirjuaq barren-ground caribou herds calving and post-calving grounds and critical migration routes.
- Potential for disturbance to caribou and other wildlife species in the area due to noise generated by exploration activities and aircraft operations which may cause stress or result in a change of usual behaviour and/or diversion off the migration path, impacting health and condition of the animals, which in turn could affect harvesting activities and availability of caribou.
- Uncertainty regarding the effectiveness of caribou protection measures.
- Concerns regarding wildlife and their habitat.
- Lack of information on consultation activities with potentially affected stakeholders on a local and regional scale on how the Proponent plans to mitigate the issues surrounding the Qamanirjuaq herd.
- Lack of key environmental management plans: specifically Spill Contingency Plan, Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan, and Waste Management Plan, to address potential environmental concerns associated with the proposed exploration program.
- Potential impacts to suspected archaeological sites within the proposed Project area.
- Lack of information on project closure and remediation plans.
- Lack of information on the mitigation or monitoring measures for other migratory birds that may be encountered in the proposed Project area.
- Lack of information on the mitigation or monitoring measures for other Species at Risk that may be encountered in the proposed Project area.
- Climate change impacts needs to be considered as part of the proposal.
- Lack of cumulative effects assessment to determine how the increasing exploration activities from this proposed project and other projects in the area may affect caribou and caribou habitat and how these will be minimized.
- Lack of information on the incineration equipment to be used.

The NIRB would like to provide Agnico Eagle with an opportunity to address the comments noted above prior to the Board rendering its determination for this screening assessment and issuing its subsequent Screening Decision Report to the responsible Minister(s). The NIRB respectfully requests that a response be provided directly to the NIRB by **July 2, 2019**.

If Agnico Eagle determines that the time required to supply a written response is significantly greater than two (2) weeks, the Board requests written notification and an anticipated date for submission be provided as soon as possible.

Please send any forthcoming submissions directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca, or through the online public registry at www.nirb.ca.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned directly at (867) 983-4609 or johokannoak@nirb.ca or Sophia Granchinho, Manager, Impact Assessment, at (867) 857-4829 or sgranchinho@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Jaida Ohokannoak
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
 Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
 Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
 Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
 Alexander Stubbing, Government of Nunavut – Department of Culture and Heritage
 Sylvie LeBlanc, Government of Nunavut – Department of Culture and Heritage
 Amy Robinson, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment
 Drikus Gissing, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment
 Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
 Georgina Williston, Environment and Climate Change Canada