



NIRB File No.: 16MN056

August 6, 2019

His Worship Shawn Attungala
Mayor of Baker Lake
P.O. Box 149
Baker Lake, NU X0C 0A0
(867) 793-2509

Sent via fax and email: blasao@netkaster.ca

Re: Request for the Mayor of Baker Lake to Provide Opening Remarks at the Upcoming NIRB Public Hearing, August 26-29, 2019

Dear Mr. Shawn Attungala:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) has scheduled a Public Hearing in Baker Lake from August 26 to August 29, 2019 as part of the NIRB's assessment of the "Whale Tail Pit Expansion" proposal submitted by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle).

The NIRB would like to extend an invitation to the Mayor of Baker Lake to provide opening remarks at the start of the Public Hearing at 9:00 a.m. at the Baker Lake Community Hall on **Monday, August 26, 2019**.

The Public Hearing will allow members of the public, Inuit organizations, and government agencies to discuss the information presented by Agnico Eagle in its project proposal and how the proposed Project would be expected to affect the environment and local communities of the Kivalliq region. The NIRB has invited community representatives from Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Naujaat, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove and the host community of Baker Lake to participate at the Hearing.

We would appreciate the Mayor or an appropriate designate being available to provide brief opening remarks (5-10 minutes) to the meeting participants as well as welcoming all out of town guests to the community of Baker Lake for the Public Hearing.

A plain language summary of the proposed project activities in English and Inuktitut has been enclosed with this letter. In addition, all documentation associated with this project proposal is available online from the NIRB's public registry for the Whale Tail Pit Expansion proposal at www.nirb.ca/project/125418.

If the Mayor or an appropriate designate will be available to provide opening remarks for the upcoming Public Hearing, please confirm with our office by **August 15, 2019** by contacting Erin Reimer, Technical Advisor I, via email at ereimer@nirb.ca, or by phone at (867) 857-4566.

The NIRB appreciates your assistance in planning for this Public Hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is written in a cursive style and ends with a long horizontal flourish.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (2): Project Summary (English and Inuktitut)
Final Public Hearing Agenda

PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited – Meadowbank Division (Agnico Eagle) would like to mine and mill for three to four more years by expanding the Whale Tail Pit Project (Approved Project), located on the Amaruq Exploration Property, approximately 50 km north of the Meadowbank Mine. Agnico Eagle is proposing to, expand the Whale Tail open pit, develop another open pit called the IVR Pit, and include underground mining operations. These new mining operations are referred to as the “Expansion Project” in this summary. Agnico Eagle is asking the Nunavut Impact Review Board to reconsider the Whale Tail Pit Project Certificate No. 008 to allow for the expansion.

The Whale Tail site currently has in place an open pit, camp for people, power plant, heli-pad, maintenance shop, tank farm, a place to store the ore and waste rock, a pond for mine site water (i.e., the water that comes into contact with various parts of the mine), a system to treat water and sewage, haul roads, access roads, and collection ponds, channels, dikes, dams, and culverts to manage on site water. Some of these facilities will be expanded to support the Expansion Project.

Initially, Agnico Eagle planned to mine ore, the rock containing the gold, over a three to four-year period or 8.3 million tonnes of ore. With the proposed expansion Agnico Eagle proposes to mine for an additional four years for an incremental of 15.2 million tonnes of ore. The total tonnage for the Approved and Expansion Project will be 23.5M tonnes of ore. During the mining process waste rock, which is the rock and soil removed to gain access to the ore, will be generated at the Whale Tail site and this rock and soil will be kept at the site. The ore, the rock containing the gold, will be transported by truck over a haul road to Meadowbank Mine to be milled and turned into gold. Waste generated from the milling process at the Meadowbank Mine will be stored at the Meadowbank Mine. The width of the haul road between the Meadowbank Mine and the Whale Tail Project site will be upgraded to double lanes from 9.5 metre wide to 15 metre wide for improved safety.

Agnico Eagle has in place the management, mitigation, and monitoring plans with the goal to manage water and waste in such a way as to limit the impact on the local environment. Agnico Eagle will continue to comply with the Project Certificate issued by the Nunavut Impact Review Board and any further direction they impose through their monitoring officer. The use and management of water and deposit of waste is regulated by the Nunavut Water Board. Agnico Eagle will continue to comply the measure put in place by the Board and as committed to by the company to have in place comprehensive monitoring programs.

A key goal of Agnico Eagle’s public consultation and engagement program has been to ensure that Agnico Eagle has the support of many interested parties who could be affected by the mine. Agnico Eagle has met with the community and with local stakeholders within the Kivalliq Region regularly to discuss the Approved Project and Expansion Project activities and will continue to do so. Agnico Eagle has documented when, where, how, why, and with whom it conducted consultation. In addition, Agnico Eagle has documented how the information collected from participants was used.

Much of the Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit (IQ) collected for the Project has been collected over time through consultation, formal IQ workshops, community meetings, and through informal acquisition of IQ by working with local field staff. The IQ collected included knowledge on the existing condition, concerns on the various project impacts, and recommendations for the Expansion Project. These concerns were taken into account in the effects assessment and recommendations were considered when developing mitigation and monitoring plans.

Agnico Eagle has continued to collect baseline information for the Project to continue to add the base of knowledge of existing conditions for the site prior to construction of Approved facilities or proposed Expansion facilities. An ongoing baseline data collection includes data related to: noise, terrain, soils and permafrost, wildlife and vegetation, geochemistry (describes the metals that are inside the rocks), groundwater (the water that is underground), surface water quantity, water quality, IQ, fish, and archeology (the study of old artifacts on the landscape and also known as heritage resources). Baseline studies are used to inform the environmental assessment for the proposed expansion. In general, the methods used for impact assessment have not changed from the original assessment approved by Nunavut Impact Review Board. Environmental significance of the Expansion Project effects were assessed based on the following criteria:

- how big, how far, and how long an effect will last;
- project design or mitigations to limit or avoid potential effects;
- environmental or socio-economic context/value, including the current “state of health” of ecosystems;
- historical, cultural, and archaeological significance of the geographic area likely to be affected by the Project; and
- value attached based on consultation with potentially affected communities and relevant individuals and organizations.

The Expansion Project will provide additional mine operational jobs until 2025 to the local population of Baker Lake and other Kivalliq communities, and indirect employment opportunities to others in Nunavut.

The Expansion Project is anticipated to have a number of positive effects, specifically a positive effect on the GDP, tax revenues, local business development, jobs and training, incomes, and well-being related to income to spend as people choose, community contributions, and the continuation of agreements between Agnico Eagle and the communities that are designed to help the communities. The most important income effect will be three to four more years of high paying wage employment from the Expansion Project.

Agnico Eagle plans to leave Whale Tail Pit Project, including the proposed Expansion Project, in a physically and chemically stable project footprint for the long-term protection of the environment and

people of Nunavut. When the mine closes, all the dikes and water diversions will be removed and lakes will have similar amounts of water as they do now. The open pits will be flooded. Some waste rock will be returned to the underground mined out areas and other waste rock will be capped with clean rock. Most active on-site closure activities will occur over a three-year period with passive closure until around 2051. Monitoring will continue until it is confirmed that the water is safe for release to the natural environment and to ensure that the natural environment is protected.

Agnico Eagle strongly believes that considering its past performance and the current design of the Expansion Project, the company is able to complete the mining of the Whale Tail Pit and IVR Pit, to lessen any negative impacts, and to maintain and restore the site in the event of closure.



FINAL HEARING AGENDA FOR THE WHALE TAIL PIT EXPANSION PROPOSAL

NIRB File No.: 16MN056 – Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project Proposal
Proponent: Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Location: Community Hall, Baker Lake, NU
Dates: August 26-29, 2019

Times: **All times given are approximate. The order of presenters and time given for presentations are subject to change at the NIRB's discretion:**

Technical Sessions: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Community Roundtable Sessions: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Evening Sessions: 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Note (1): Witnesses appearing on behalf of registered Intervenors will be sworn in/affirmed and exhibits will be marked in advance of testimony being given. Panels of witnesses may be used for the presentation of evidence.

Note (2): All testimony will be recorded and transcribed by the Board and may also be recorded by the media.

Monday, August 26, 2019 – Day 1 of Technical Sessions (*including evening session*)

General Opening

1. Opening prayer
2. Welcoming Remarks by the Mayor of Baker Lake
3. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson (*30 minutes*)
 - i. Introductions, overview of procedural history, structure of proceedings, etc.
 - ii. Identification of motions or objections
 - iii. Review of Agenda
 - iv. Housekeeping Items

Technical Session

4. Presentations by the Proponent - Note: witnesses appearing on behalf of the Proponent will be sworn in/affirmed and exhibits will be marked in advance of testimony being given. Time for questioning by Board Members and Intervenors will be provided immediately following presentations.
 - i. Introduction, Project Overview, and Response to final written submissions (*60 minutes*)

- ii. Public Participation and Engagement (20 minutes)
- iii. Alternatives Assessment and Cumulative Effects (20 minutes)
- iv. Atmospheric Environment (20 minutes)
- v. Terrestrial Environment (20 minutes)
- vi. Freshwater Environment (20 minutes)
- vii. Marine Environment (10 minutes)
- viii. Socio-Economics (20 minutes)
- ix. Human Health (20 minutes)
- x. Management Plans and Monitoring Programs (20 minutes)

Close of Day 1

Tuesday, August 27, 2019 – Day 2 of Technical Sessions

Technical session (Continued from Day 1)

1. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson
2. Presentations from registered Intervenors – Note: witnesses appearing on behalf of registered Intervenors will be sworn in/affirmed and exhibits will be marked in advance of testimony being given. Unless otherwise indicated, each Intervenor has been allotted up to 30 minutes for their presentations. Following each Intervenors’ presentation there will be time for questions by Board Members, other Intervenors and the Proponent.
 - i. Kivalliq Inuit Association
 - ii. Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization
 - iii. Government of Nunavut
 - iv. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
 - v. Environment and Climate Change Canada
 - vi. Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Close of Day 2

Wednesday, August 28, 2019 – Day 1 of Community Roundtable (including evening session)

General Opening

1. Opening prayer
2. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson
3. Presentations from registered Intervenors (*continued*)
 - vii. Health Canada
 - viii. Natural Resources Canada

Community Roundtable Session

4. Presentation by the Proponent – **Introduction and Overview of Project** (*90 minutes*)
5. Questioning of the Proponent and Parties by community representatives and members of the public, organized by the following topics:
 - i. Public participation and engagement
 - ii. Continuing use of Baker Lake facilities and Meadowbank all-weather access road
 - iii. Continuing use of Meadowbank facilities, processing plant and tailings storage
 - iv. Development of additional facilities at Whale Tail site and expansion of haul road
 - v. Cumulative effects and other concerns

Close of Day 3

Thursday, August 29, 2019 – Day 2 of Community Roundtable

General Opening

1. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson

Community Roundtable Session (*continued*)

2. Questioning of the Proponent and Parties by community representatives and members of the public, organized by the following topics: (*continued*)
 - a. Public participation and engagement
 - b. Continuing use of Baker Lake facilities and Meadowbank all-weather access road
 - c. Continuing use of Meadowbank facilities, processing plant and tailings storage
 - d. Development of additional facilities at Whale Tail site and expansion of haul road
 - e. Cumulative effects and other concerns
3. Closing Remarks – Proponent and Intervenors
4. Closing Remarks – Community Members

Close of Day 4