



NIRB File No.: 16MN056

October 4, 2019

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: carolyn.bennett@canada.ca and carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca

Re: Extension to Timeline for Delivery of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's Reconsideration Report and Recommendations in Respect of the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Minister:

As you are aware, since receiving a referral for assessment on October 16, 2018 from the Nunavut Planning Commission for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's "Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project" proposal (Expansion Proposal), the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) initiated a formal reconsideration of terms and conditions of Project Certificate No. 008 pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.8.2(b) and 12.8.2(c) of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and ss. 112(1)(b) and 112(1)(c) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2(NuPPAA). The NIRB's assessment of the Expansion Proposal has been conducted to reflect the scale and scope of the changes requested and included the following key steps:

- Determining conformity of the Final Environmental Impact Statement Addendum;
- Facilitation of Community Information Sessions in the communities in the Kivalliq region;
- Solicitation and receipt of relevant technical information, including Information Requests, Technical Review Comments, Final Written Submissions, and Inuit Qaujimagatugangit;
- Facilitation of Technical Meetings in June 11-13, 2019; and
- Hosting of a Public Hearing in Baker Lake August 26-29, 2019 to hear directly from intervenors and community representatives regarding potential impacts of the Expansion Proposal.

The NIRB is now actively preparing its Reconsideration Report and Recommendations to provide the Board's findings and recommendations to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs for consideration.

The anticipated process schedule proposed by the NIRB in February 2019 indicated that the NIRB's Reconsideration Report and Recommendations would be provided by October 14, 2019. However, the Board has determined that additional time is required to thoroughly review the

evidence provided and facilitate the Board's final decision making for this file. The NIRB believes a small extension to the timeline is appropriate in this case to allow for the report and recommendations to be finalized in association with its next regular meeting, October 16-19, 2019. Consequently, by way of this correspondence **the NIRB is advising that the date for issuance of the Reconsideration Report and Recommendations will be extended by four days to Friday, October 18, 2019.** The NIRB requires this additional time to ensure that the Reconsideration Report and Recommendations are as accurate and comprehensive as possible.

In the interim, all information relating to the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Proposal, including transcripts from the Public Hearing, can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125418.

CONCLUSION

In closing, the NIRB appreciates the continued support of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs and parties as the Board prepares to conclude the assessment for the Expansion Proposal.

Should any parties have questions or comments regarding this assessment, please contact the NIRB's Executive Director, Ryan Barry at (867) 983-4608 or via email at rbarry@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kaviq Kaluraq
Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Serge Beaudoin, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
Jamie Quesnel, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Philippe Lapointe, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Whale Tail Pit Distribution List