



NEWS RELEASE

NIRB File No. 16MN056

Project Certificate No. 008, Amendment No. 001

Nunavut Impact Review Board Issues Amendment No. 001 to Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Whale Tail Pit Project Certificate No. 008 for the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Proposal

CAMBRIDGE BAY, NU – February 19, 2020: Following the completion of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) assessment of the potential ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts of the "Whale Tail Pit Expansion Proposal" (Expansion Proposal) related to the previously approved Whale Tail Pit Project (NIRB File No. 16MN056) and as approved by the Responsible Ministers in their January 22, 2020 correspondence, the NIRB has issued amended Project Certificate No. 008 to Agnico Eagle Mines Limited.

The Expansion Proposal includes modifications to the previously-approved Whale Tail Pit Project, located at the Amaruq property on Inuit-owned lands, approximately 150 kilometres (km) north of Baker Lake and 50 km northwest of the existing Meadowbank Gold Mine (NIRB File No. 03MN107). Through the Expansion Proposal, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited has now been approved to expand the size of the Whale Tail open pit, develop an additional open pit (IVR pit) and associated infrastructure, and develop underground mining operations at both Whale Tail and IVR deposits. Processing of the ore mined from the Expansion Proposal will take place at the existing Meadowbank Gold Mine site, using the existing mill and tailings management infrastructure. The ore will be trucked daily from the Whale Tail site via the existing 65 km private haul road, which will be upgraded from 9 metres (m) to 15 m wide. The Expansion Proposal will continue to use the existing marine shipping infrastructure in Baker Lake to support shipment of materials required for construction of the Expansion Proposal components as well as annual resupply of fuel.

The amendments to the Project Certificate include additional mitigation and monitoring measures required to limit the potential for effects on caribou, with a focus on the incorporation of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*. Within the January 22, 2020 approval of the Responsible Ministers additional clarification was also provided to terms and conditions 30 and 66 which were varied in accordance with s. 112(6)(b)(ii) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). Within the amended Project Certificate, revised term and condition 1 requires continuous monitoring of nitrogen dioxide as part of the existing air quality monitoring program. Revised terms and conditions 46 and 51 incorporate gender specific monitoring requirements and socio-economic closure planning, including the development of a workforce transition plan. New terms and conditions 66 and 67 address safety protocols on the Whale Tail haul road and further assessment of alternative discharge locations for treated mine effluent, respectively. The Proponent will also be required to report annually on the fulfillment of commitments made throughout the assessment process as part of new term and condition 68.

The NIRB will remain in contact with regulators to support the subsequent permitting process associated with the amended activities for the Whale Tail Pit Project. The NIRB will also continue to work with Agnico Eagle Mines Limited to monitor the Whale Tail Pit Project in accordance with Part 7 of Article 12 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 135 of the *NuPPAA*, according to the requirements of the amended Project Certificate.

The NIRB appreciates the participation of the Kivalliq communities, regulators, the proponent and other interested parties in the assessment for the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Proposal and the monitoring program for the Whale Tail Pit Project. Documentation relevant to Project Certificate No. 008 (including Amendment No. 001) and Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project is available online from the NIRB's public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125418.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Kaniq Kaluraq". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'K' at the end.

Kaviq Kaluraq
Acting Chairperson of the Nunavut Impact Review Board

For more information, the media may contact:

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