

June 24, 2020

Kavik Kaluraq, Chairperson  
 Nunavut Impact Review Board  
 PO Box 1360  
 Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

**Re: Nunavut Impact Review Board Direction Regarding the “2020 Saline Discharge Strategy” submitted by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited in relation to the Meliadine Gold Mine Project**

Dear Chairperson Kaluraq,

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (**Agnico Eagle**) is writing in response to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (**NIRB**) letter of June 9, 2020 (the **NIRB’s Letter**) notifying the Agnico Eagle regarding the outcome and next steps in the NIRB’s consideration of interim measures proposed by Agnico Eagle in correspondence to the NIRB on March 18, 2020, which will result in an increase to 1600 m<sup>3</sup>/day in the amount of saline groundwater (saline effluent) transported by truck to storage trucks at Itivia Harbour for discharge into Melvin Bay during the summer of 2020 (2020 Saline Discharge Strategy).

**1. Updates to Applicable Monitoring and Mitigation Plans**

As advised by NIRB in the NIRB’s Letter, Agnico Eagle encloses updates to the following management and mitigation plans for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project (the Project):

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Summary of Update</i>
1. Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Monitoring Plan	- Updated to include a detailed plan for enhanced monitoring of the potential for truck traffic impacts to wildlife accounting for the increased truck traffic on the all weather access road to 88 one way trips per day (see Section 3.1.2 [pg. 19-20], Section 3.1.3 [pg.21-23], Section 3.1.8 [pg26.-27], Section 4.3.3 [pg.32-33], Section 4.5.1 [pg.36], and Appendices II, III and IV)
2. Dust Management Plan	- Updated to include new thresholds and mitigation measures for dust management on the AWAR (see page 16)
3. Air Quality Monitoring Plan	- Updated to include thresholds to increase dustfall monitoring and mitigation measures for dust management on the AWA (see pages 12-14)
4. Ocean Discharge Monitoring Plan	- Figures in Plan updated to clearly reference the previous estimated volumes of 800 m <sup>3</sup> /day as well as the temporary increased volume of saline effluent discharge of up to 1600 m <sup>3</sup> /day related to the 2020 Saline Discharge Strategy (see pages 4-11). - The plan has also been updated to describe the additional monitoring or sampling activities that will be implemented by Agnico Eagle to monitor for potential effects (see pages 13-14).

## **2. Additional Reporting Requirements re 2020 Saline Discharge Strategy**

With respect to reporting requirements, Agnico Eagle confirms that in addition to reporting the results of its monitoring programs within its annual report to NIRB as required by the terms and conditions of Project Certificate No. 006, on or before December 10, 2020, Agnico Eagle will provide the NIRB with a summary of the results of its additional monitoring programs related to the 2020 Saline Discharge Strategy described in the updates to the Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Monitoring Plan, Air Quality Monitoring Plan, and Ocean Discharge Monitoring Plan described above.

## **3. Additional Community Engagement re 2020 Saline Discharge Strategy**

Agnico Eagle confirms that it will continue to engage with the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization, Elders and Kivalliq community members to inform them of the above updates to its monitoring plans, programs and mitigation measures.

Additionally, in light of the various projects related to water management at Meliadine, Agnico Eagle will take a holistic approach to consultations to ensure that community members and organizations understand how the 2020 Saline Discharge Strategy fits into the overall water management plan and how it may interrelate to other applications that are ongoing with NIRB.

We will also ensure the December 10, 2020 report on the results of the monitoring programs are communicated to community members and organizations in a meaningful way, by ensuring that translated into Inuktitut and that plain language sections of the report are included in the submission to NIRB and circulated to the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization, Elders and Kivalliq community members.

Agnico will rely on its local staff to conduct in person meetings with subject matter experts participating by teleconference where possible in light of the current public health restrictions and a survey is ongoing to better understand how community members and organizations wish to be engaged with. Other methods that will be used to engage includes video animations to illustrate Meliadine's water management program, Facebook posts, information on the Agnico Eagle Nunavut webpage ([www.aemnunavut.ca](http://www.aemnunavut.ca)), and updates on local radio.

## **4. Conclusion**

Agnico Eagle further confirms that it will continue to remain in regular communication with NIRB through its Monitoring Officer and to operate in compliance with NIRB Project Certificate No. 006 as well as all applicable regulatory approvals while carrying out the 2020 Saline Discharge Strategy.

As NIRB has determined that the implementation of the updated plans and enhanced monitoring and reporting will ensure the potential for effects due to the 2020 Saline Discharge Strategy can be prevented, managed and mitigated without the need for further assessment by the NIRB, it is Agnico Eagle's understanding it may now proceed and implement the 2020 Saline Discharge Strategy without need for further steps by NIRB.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and enclosed materials.

Regards,



Jamie Quesnel

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