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12 July, 2020

Erin Reimer
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Subject: Additional Comments on Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's "2020 Saline Discharge Strategy" Proposal and "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment" Amendment"

Dear Erin,

I would like to take this opportunity to submit some visual information concerning the Agnico Eagle's (AEM) Meliadine Mine proposed dual water line for the disposal of saline effluent that I believe is relevant to the behaviour of caribou around water lines. As I have already communicated to you, I may not be available to present this information when the review process begins and therefore I wish to have this information circulated now.

Late in the afternoon of 9 July, 2020 and continuing on into the evening we observed a caribou herd numbering perhaps 4,000 animals moving in a northwesterly direction parallel and close to the Meliadine Lake shore toward the AEM mine site. This observation was made from the All Weather Road (AWR) at approximately the 23 km mark.

We were taking pictures of the caribou and based on the digital metadata it is possible to reconstruct the following. Note all times are rounded out for simplicity.

- 16:45. Caribou north of AWR Km 23 and heading NW.
- 17:15. Caribou at the furthest east point of the AEM mine.
- 17:30. Caribou observed at the AEM exploration camp core storage area feeding and resting in the general area on the south side of the road leading to the Exploration Camp Site
- 18:00. Caribou moving in a westerly direction and crossed the road on either side of the Km 29 Gate House, more specifically where the Gate House was previously located as it is no longer there.
- 18:30 Caribou arrived at the double water lines. These presumably are the water supply pipes for the mine. The caribou would not cross these lines and lingered in the area.
- 19:20. Caribou moving back in an easterly direction from the double pipe lines.
- 20:35. Caribou returned back to the double water pipes.
- 20:38. A few caribou crossed the water lines.
- 21:05. Approximately half the caribou crossed the lines and the remaining caribou turned away and headed back in an easterly direction.

We returned back to Rankin Inlet at about 22:00 and therefore we do not know where the caribou that were heading back in an easterly direction ultimately moved to.

A Google Earth image is included with this information to show where the AWR, Double Water Lines and a single Water Line are located for reference.

As for specifics on the water lines, I am not privy to that information however AEM probably has this information.

We have 1,500 digital images and videos taken over the course of the time frames noted above and clearly you would not need all of these and therefore only a few will be sent to you. Having said that, we can make all of the images taken available for review and confirmation of authenticity.

Also the raw data files are being submitted as confirmation they have not been altered.

There is another single and larger diameter water line running from the mine site towards Meliadine Lake that some of the caribou had an interaction with. We observed that no caribou crossed the pipe even though there appears to be a short section of gravel that could act as an overpass (video 810-0568). Perhaps the grass was not greener on the other side and the caribou were not compelled to cross the line but I suggest they would not cross it unless pressed to do so.

As for the double water lines where the caribou were held up in first instance when they encountered the water line barrier at about 18:00, they returned back in the direction they came from which definitely shows the water lines act as a barrier to their passage.

The second instance of the caribou coming back to the double lines at about at about 20:35 demonstrates that some will cross the line but only under duress. You can see in the videos (850-0270, 850-0271) the pipes did present a barrier to which only some would cross in spurts – i.e. 5 to 100 might cross at one time and then after some minutes a few more would cross. It is obvious they did not casually walk over the pipes but rather half jumped/galoped over them in what no doubt would suggest they were under stress stemming from fear. Further it took about 30 minutes for the caribou that did cross the pipes to do so when, if there had been no barrier, then the entire herd would have done so in a matter of a few minutes. Ultimately the water lines split the heard in two, with many of the caribou that crossed the water lines already out of sight by the time the portion that did not cross were heading back east.

AEM has stated that they were led to understand caribou will cross over a 20 inch pipe and I wish to contest such an unsubstantiated and misleading statement with the evidence hereby presented. Further, as I have stated previously, we have seen the kind behaviour by migrating caribou around the Rankin Inlet domestic water pipeline a number of years ago. Therefore, I again state my opinion that the proposed water lines, based on this visual evidence, will negatively affect the behaviour and movement of caribou and no water lines should be constructed from the mine to Melvin Bay.

One of the videos (850-0270) displays some golden side lighting of the migration caribou which is reminiscent of classic African wildlife cinematography– for sure it is visually stimulating. Having said that, and I stand to be corrected, the dust cloud arising from the caribou must be the result of dust generated by the mining operations and settled downwind where it was being disturbed by the feet of the passing caribou.

Another consideration and negative aspect of the water lines will be the unaesthetic appearance along the road way making the scenic ride more like that of a tour of an industrial site.

I believe AEM has not done their due diligence on the behaviour of caribou around waterlines and have undertaken a strategy to push their proposal through the regulatory process to the future detriment of the caribou. I suggest any statements AEM may make in regards to their caring for the environment be taken with trepidation and that installation of the water lines should not be permitted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BZ' with a stylized flourish, set against a light gray rectangular background.

Brian Zawadski