



# **AGNICO EAGLE**

WHALE COVE AREA,  
EXPLORATION PROJECTS

**2019 Annual report**

Screening decision  
17EA068

Prepared by:

**Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, Exploration Division**

March 2020

Submitted to:

**Nunavut Impact Review Board**

**Contact:**

**Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.**

**David Frenette**

Environmental Coordinator

765 chemin de la mine Goldex

Val-d'Or, Quebec, J9P7G4

[david.frenette@agnicoeagle.com](mailto:david.frenette@agnicoeagle.com)

**Annual Report**

2) The Proponent shall submit a comprehensive annual report to the Nunavut Impact Review Board by March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year of permitted activities beginning March 31, 2019. The annual report must contain at least the following information:

a) A summary of activities undertaken for the year, including:

- i) a map showing the approximate location of drill sites;
  - *No holes were drilled in 2019 in the area covered by this screening decision.*
- ii) a map showing the location of the fuel cache;
  - *Fuel was stored at the Huckleberry camp site.*

iii) a description of local hires, contracting opportunities and initiatives;

- *To support the exploration activities in Nunavut, 4 local Inuit workers were hired.*
- *Agnico Eagle uses local suppliers and services to support its exploration activities.*

iv) flight altitudes, frequency of flights and anticipated flight routes;

- *For long-range transportation flights, we ask all pilots to follow a practice that sees the aircraft fly at a minimum of 610 m above ground level. Exceptions may exist during takeoff and landing, low-level ceiling conditions, high winds, or other risks to flight safety.*
- *Transport between the exploration camp and the exploration areas was done daily during the exploration period.*

v) site photos;

- *Exploration camp installed to support the exploration campaign in the area.*



b) A work plan for the following year, including description of any planned progressive reclamation work;

- *Exploration activities planned for 2020 include geophysical surveys and prospection with the use of the exploration camp to support the activities.*

c) A summary of community consultations undertaken throughout the year, providing copy of materials presented to community members, a description of issues and concerns raised, discussions with community members and advice offered to the company as well as any follow-up actions that were required or taken to resolve any concerns expressed about the project proposal;

***Meetings oriented toward exploration projects in 2019 included:***

- *February 16<sup>th</sup> 2019, Whale Cove. Meeting with the Hamlet of Whale Cove to discuss each other's priorities and plans for 2019.*
- *March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Whale Cove. Meeting with the Hamlet of Whale Cove, HTO board members and KIA director. Presentation of the planned exploration activities in the areas and about priorities and concerns.*
- *June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Baker Lake. Meeting with the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers' Organization to discuss 2019 exploration activities, Archaeology activities and opportunities.*
- *September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Rankin Inlet. Workshop with Kivalliq HTO to map and identify place names, hunting/fishing areas, wildlife areas.*

d) A log of instances in which community residents occupy or transit through the project area for the purpose of traditional land use or harvesting. This log should include the location and number of people encountered, activity being undertaken (e.g. berry picking, fishing, hunting, camping, etc.), date and time; and any mitigation measures or adaptive management undertaken to prevent disturbance;

- *No community residents occupying or transiting through the project area were seen during the exploration activities in 2019.*

e) A record of wildlife observations, including observed locations (i.e., latitude and longitude), species, number of animals, a description of the animal activity, and a description of the gender and age of animals if possible. A map of known sensitive wildlife sites such as denning sites, caribou crossing sites, and raptor nests in the area should accompany the report.

- *No wildlife observation was noted during the short period of activities in this area.*

f) A summary of any wildlife mitigation actions undertaken, including the number of cease-work orders requires as a result of proximity to caribou and any other wildlife;

- *The exploration activities were conducted once caribou migration was finished in the area. No cease-work orders were required.*

g) An analysis of the effectiveness of mitigation measures for wildlife, and identification of adaptive mitigation that will be implemented if mitigation measures were unsuccessful;

- *Adaptive mitigation measures in 2019 included the use of the area after the caribou migration period, reducing the risk of interaction.*

h) Summary of any heritage sites encountered during the exploration activities, any follow-up action or reporting required as a result and how project activities were modified to mitigate impacts on the heritage sites;

- *Archaeology investigations were conducted in 2017 and 2018 in the area covered by this screening decision in anticipation of the exploration activities. Archaeological sites found during the field investigations were described in the reports submitted to the Government of Nunavut by the archaeologists, and protection buffers were respected during exploration activities.*

i) Summary of its knowledge of Inuit land use in/near the project area and explain how project activities were modified to mitigate impacts on Inuit land use; and

- *We understand how important location and land names are in traditional Inuit culture and the importance Inuit place on protecting and preserving their heritage and identity. Last year, after consulting with the Hunters & Trappers organization, it was recommended that we contact the Inuit Heritage -Trust (ITH) concerning its **Place Names Program** – a program that has been documenting oral traditional place names in Nunavut and ensuring that these names are used to identify archaeological sites, for mineral maps and in community consultations. We are working with the ITH to help validate these place names and, where possible, we use them in reference to our various locations and projects.*

k) A summary of how the Proponent has complied with conditions contained within this Screening Decision, and all conditions as required by other authorizations associated with the project proposal.

- *Procedures and plans were created to ensure compliance with the conditions associated to this decision and other licenses and permits required to conduct exploration activities in the area. The Spill Contingency Plan and the Wildlife Protection and Response Plan describe mitigation measures applied in certain defined situations to ensure prompt actions. Annual reports including details on Agnico Eagle's compliance with obligations are submitted to regulators, including Nunavut Water Board, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and Kivalliq Inuit Association. Compliance inspections by the Kivalliq Inuit Association and by CIRNAC are also regularly conducted in the areas where exploration activities are conducted.*