



NIRB File No.: 11MN034
NWB File No.: 2AM-MEL1631
NPC File No.: 149337

September 9, 2020

Jamie Quesnel
Regional Manager – Permitting and Regulatory Affairs
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Baker Lake, NU
X0C0A0

Sent via email: jamie.quesnel@agnicoeagle.com

Re: NIRB Clarification on scope of Agnico Eagle’s “Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment” Project Proposal related to the Meliadine Gold Mine Project

Dear Jamie Quesnel:

As you are aware, on August 27, 2020 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) formally initiated the public technical review of the revised Impact Statement Addendum¹ (IS Addendum) submitted by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle or Proponent) in support of its’ “Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment” Project Proposal (the Project Proposal), , and invited parties to submit Information Requests (IRs) to the NIRB on or before September 25, 2020. Based on the NIRB’s internal completeness check and conformity review of the IS Addendum and associated application materials, the NIRB has developed a preliminary scope of the Project Proposal, as outlined below.

During the NIRB’s recent community information sessions, held in Rankin Inlet on August 24 and 25, 2020 the NIRB became aware of additional information, and potential alternative design options being considered by Agnico Eagle related to the scope of the Project Proposal, that seem to conflict with the details provided within the Proponent’s revised IS Addendum. The NIRB requires clarification from the Proponent regarding several aspects of the scope of activities proposed in order to develop a finalized scope and continue with a timely assessment of the “Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment” Project Proposal.

¹ Also referred to as Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Addendum

The Meliadine Gold Mine Project is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) north of Rankin Inlet, with Phase 1 focusing on both open pit and underground mining at the Tiriganiaq deposit. The underground mine extends below the permafrost and experiences inflow of saline groundwater. In January 2018, Agnico Eagle applied to modify the way it would manage saline groundwater flowing into the underground mine because a higher volume of saline groundwater was contacted than previously predicted. Agnico Eagle's "2018 Saline Effluent Discharge Proposal" involved the discharge of excess saline groundwater into the marine environment at Itivia Harbour, Melvin Bay and was assessed by the Board as a reconsideration of the terms and conditions of Project Certificate No. 006, with an amendment to the Project Certificate issued on February 26, 2019. The approved proposal allowed Agnico Eagle to truck treated saline effluent from the mine site to the Itivia facility, where it is placed in a holding tank prior to being discharged through a pipeline and engineered diffuser into Melvin Bay. Discharge occurs during the open water season only, in addition to continued management of saline effluent at the mine site.

Agnico Eagle's current "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment" Project Proposal proposes to develop a pipeline to convey saline effluent from the Meliadine mine site to the existing facility at Itivia Harbour, for discharge of an increased volume of saline effluent to the marine environment, replacing the currently approved trucking method.

Construction of the infrastructure is proposed to begin in 2021 and would be used for the discharge of saline effluent as early as May 2021, remain in place for the life of the mine, and according to the proposal, the scope of the project involve the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Construction and operation of a waterline pipe from the Meliadine mine site to the Itivia facility along the all-weather access road (AWAR) and by-pass road specifically:
 - Installation of two (2) pipelines of 16-inch diameter, running alongside the existing roads and within the easement of the existing roads;
 - Connection of pipelines to a modified pump house/sampling station at the Itivia facility;
- Installation, operation and decommissioning of a new pipeline extending from the pump house at the existing Itivia facility to a discharge location in Melvin Bay:
 - Discharge location approximately 250 metres (m) northwest of the existing approved pipeline;
 - Use of horizontal directional drilling (HDD) method to construct an underground corridor for the pipeline;
 - Pipeline would extend underground from the pump house to approximately seven (7) m depth below the water surface, and continue on the sea floor to an engineered diffuser at 20 m depth;
 - Pipeline would remain in place following decommissioning of the facility; and
- Discharge of treated saline effluent into Melvin Bay at a rate of 6,000 cubic metres (m³) to 12,000 m³ per day during the open water season with the alternative option to discharge up to a maximum of 20,000 m³ per day of on site treated surface contact water, should it be required.

The NIRB requests clarification from Agnico Eagle on the following proposed items and/or activities related to the scope of the Project Proposal:

- Whether the proposed pipeline would comprise one (1) or two (2) pipelines along the road and the dimensions of the proposed pipeline(s);
- Whether the proposed pipeline(s) are intended to be buried or aboveground and if buried, what percentage of length is intended to be buried;
- What is the **maximum** volume of saline effluent proposed for discharge per day, including contingency that accounts for years of high precipitation and/or other factors that would contribute to higher than average discharge requirements;
- Is the option for surface runoff water originally planned for discharge to Meliadine Lake, to be diverted for discharge to Melvin Bay, being considered as part of the Project Proposal? And if so, has Agnico Eagle completed an effects assessment that considers the impacts of surface runoff water discharge to the marine environment; and
- Any other developments/details that are being considered by Agnico Eagle that would differ from the proposed activities described within the revised IS Addendum, or from the preliminary scope described above.

The NIRB requires that Agnico Eagle provide its' response to the above matters within one (1) week, on or before **September 16, 2020**. If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact the undersigned directly at (867) 857-4829 or sgranchinho@nirb.ca or contact Erin Reimer, Technical Advisor I, at ereimer@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Sophia Granchinho
Manager, Impact Assessment
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Meliadine Distribution List
Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited