



NIRB File No.: 11MN034
NWB File No.: 2AM-MEL1631
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September 15, 2020

Kim Pawley
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Northern Affairs Organization
15 Eddy St., 10th Floor
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4

Sent via regular mail and email: kim.pawley@canada.ca

Re: Participant Funding Application for the NIRB's Assessment of Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment" Project Proposal

Dear Kim Pawley:

As you are aware, on August 10, 2020 in coordination with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) circulated a public notice regarding the availability of participant funding for the assessment of Agnico Eagle Mine Limited's (Agnico Eagle) "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment" Project Proposal (NIRB File No.: 11MN034). This correspondence is intended to formally provide the participant funding applications to CIRNAC with limited comments from the NIRB for consideration.

On or before the September 11, 2020 deadline, the NIRB notes the following parties submitted participant funding applications to CIRNAC:

- **Kivalliq Inuit Association**
- **Kivalliq Wildlife Board**
- **Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization**
- **Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers Organization**
- **Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization**
- **Issatik Hunters and Trappers Organization**
- **Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization**

Each party has identified their interest in participating in the assessment of the “Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment” Project Proposal (the Project Proposal). The NIRB has provided commentary recognizing that several of the applicants have previously participated in the impact assessment process associated with the original Meliadine Gold Mine Project and in the subsequent assessment for the 2018 Saline Effluent Discharge Project; and recognizing the potential benefits of parties having the opportunity to continue their participation in the NIRB’s assessment of the Project Proposal.

The NIRB appreciates the efforts of CIRNAC to provide participant funding to support this assessment, and the efforts of parties to submit applications for funding. In our experience, adequate funding is essential for intervenors to fully inform themselves and participate in a meaningful way in the impact assessment of major developments in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA)

The Kivalliq Inuit Association plays an important role representing Inuit rights and interests during the assessments of proposed projects; in addition to its regulatory role associated with administering Inuit-owned lands, water rights and the Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement required for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project, the KivIA acts as a conduit in the NIRB’s process for the knowledge and concerns of Inuit throughout the Kivalliq Region. In the past, the KivIA has been an active participant in NIRB assessments and has occupied a central role collecting and sharing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Inuit Qaujimaningit in a manner that greatly assists the Board to incorporate this important knowledge into the Board’s assessment in a meaningful way. The NIRB’s previous assessments associated with the Meliadine Gold Mine Project have benefited from the KivIA’s participation and the NIRB anticipates that support for the KivIA’s continued participation in the assessment of the Project Proposal would be of similar benefit.

Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB)

The Kivalliq Wildlife Board is tasked with the management and coordination of implementing Inuit harvesting regulations and preserving Inuit harvesting interests across the Kivalliq region. Its role includes supporting the actions and operations of the local hunters and trappers organizations (HTOs) in the Kivalliq region, and it has participated in that capacity in the previous NIRB Review of the Meliadine Gold Mine Project. The NIRB anticipates that support for the KWB’s participation in this assessment would assist in providing central support for those HTOs that have also indicated their intent to participate in the process, as well as contribute to broader representation of Inuit harvesting rights for the Kivalliq region.

Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization (KHTO)

The Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization participation is based on the community nearest to the Project Proposal, Rankin Inlet, which has the potential to be directly impacted by its proximity to the proposed project infrastructure and activities. The KHTO represents Inuit who harvest within and adjacent to the proposed Project footprint, and who have the potential to be directly impacted by the activities associated with the Project Proposal and would therefore be best-positioned to contribute information regarding potential impacts to wildlife and Inuit harvesting. The KHTO’s participation would ensure that concerns related to hunting/harvesting

are taken into consideration and that the proposed activities do not adversely impact the hunting, trapping, or fishing activities of the local community. The KHTO participated as an intervenor in the previous NIRB Review of the Meliadine Gold Mine Project, and subsequent assessment of the 2018 Saline Effluent Discharge Project, providing meaningful knowledge through final written submissions and comments and concerns at the Public Hearing at that time.

Arviat, Aqigiq, Baker Lake, and Issatik Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTO)

The Arviat, Aqigiq, Baker Lake, and Issatik HTOs that have submitted applications for participant funding are responsible for managing wildlife, promoting the health and culture of residents by implementing specific sections of the *Nunavut Agreement*, and representing the interests of Inuit hunters and Elders through co-management and other regulatory processes. Based on their membership of Inuit hunters and Elders, the HTOs have the unique capacity to collect and communicate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Inuit Qaujimaningit related to wildlife and land use. The HTOs of these four (4) communities represent Inuit who harvest within the range of the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd, travel to coastal marine areas to harvest marine mammals and fish, and therefore have the potential to be impacted by the proposed activities. The NIRB notes that the Aqigiq HTO participated as an intervenor in the previous NIRB Review of the Meliadine Gold Mine Project, and at that time contributed meaningfully through final written submissions and comments and concerns at the Public Hearing. The NIRB anticipates that support for these organizations participating in the current assessment would contribute meaningful knowledge to the understanding of potential impacts, and be of benefit to the reconsideration process.

NIRB CONCLUSIONS AND REQUESTED NEXT STEPS

In closing, the Board respectfully requests that the findings of the independent funding review committee regarding the award of participant funding be made publicly available upon completion. From the NIRB's perspective, this level of transparency supports public confidence in the impact assessment process and may encourage public participation in current and future NIRB assessments.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the undersigned at kcostello@nirb.ca or by phone at (867) 983-4608.

Sincerely,



Karen D. Costello
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Jeremy Weyerman, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Michelle-Claire Roy, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Jamie Quesnel, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Stanley Adjuk, Kivalliq Wildlife Board
Sam Muckpah, Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization
Harry Aggark, Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers Organization
Phillip Putumiraqtuq, Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization
Simon Enuapik, Issatik Hunters and Trappers Organization
Roger Pilakapsi, Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization
Meliadine Distribution List