



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

January 20, 2021

To: *Meliadine Distribution List*

Sent via email

Re: Logistics Information and Revised Draft Agenda for the NIRB Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference for Agnico Eagle's "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment" Project Proposal

Dear Parties:

On December 10, 2020, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) provided notification that the Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference as part of the Board's assessment of Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's (Agnico Eagle) "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment" Project Proposal (the Proposal), which was postponed due to COVID-19 public health restrictions, would be rescheduled for February 11 to 13, 2021.¹ Therefore, the *Draft* Agenda for the Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference, as originally distributed on November 3, 2020,² has been revised and included for parties' review (**Appendix A**).

The following correspondence also provides logistical information related to the upcoming in-person Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference and a copy of the NIRB's COVID-19 public meeting protocols (English and Inuktitut) are attached to ensure that participants are aware of the public health procedures in Rankin Inlet.

ADDITIONAL HUB LOCATIONS

The Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference will consist of in-person meetings in Rankin Inlet. Due to public health restrictions in other parts of Canada, a southern hub is no longer being considered for these proceedings. Intervenors who are unable to attend in Rankin Inlet will be provided with options to participate through a combination of audio and/or video feeds to provide opportunities to support two-way communication for remote attendees. This will include being able to view the audio/video feed of the proceedings online or to access the audio feed by

¹ NIRB Public Registry www.nirb.ca/project/124701, Document ID No.: 332074

² NIRB Public Registry www.nirb.ca/project/124701, Document ID No.: 331876

telephone to allow participation in discussions by phone or via the on-line audio/video feed. The NIRB will be providing additional detail on this matter later in the letter.

The NIRB has applied to the Chief Public Health Officer for an exemption to the 50 person limit for in-person gatherings to allow up to 80 people at Rankin Inlet. An update will be provided upon receipt by the NIRB of the modified order.

COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE

The Community Roundtable, hosted on February 11-12, 2021, will provide time for representatives from the five (5) Kivalliq communities within the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd's habitat designated by the Minister of Northern Affairs as potentially impacted by the Proposal to be at the table to discuss the proposal and participate in the NIRB's assessment. Therefore, the NIRB has invited up to three (3) representatives from Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, and Whale Cove to attend the Community Roundtable Session and Pre-hearing Conference as nominated by key community organizations. Members of the public from Rankin Inlet are also invited to participate by attending the in-person sessions, and spaces have been reserved per session, and in compliance with public health orders.

All in-person meetings will be managed in accordance with the NIRB's protocol for holding meetings as laid out in respect of personal distancing requirements, accommodations made for personal protective equipment, conducting proceedings to balance attendance with facility occupancy rates, and in compliance with public health orders in place for each location.

COMMUNITY ORIENTATION TRAINING SESSION

An orientation session will be held for community representatives on **Wednesday, February 10, 2021 (6:30 p.m. CT)** to demonstrate how proceedings will be conducted and to prepare for the Community Roundtable meeting.

PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

As a reminder to all parties the Pre-hearing Conference, hosted in the afternoon on February 12, 2021, will focus on determining the specific steps and processes required to complete the assessment, including matters such as: determining the timing and format for parties to present their evidence to the Board; timelines for the exchange of documents and information required by parties for the proceedings; finalization of issues to be discussed in the proceedings; and/or other matters as determined by parties.

The Pre-hearing Conference is meant to provide parties with an opportunity to confirm agreement to the list of commitments and identify issues resolved during the Technical Meetings, and those issues which remain outstanding, which the Board will consider when issuing a Pre-hearing Conference Decision and providing direction to the Proponent and parties on what steps are required to schedule a Public Hearing for this assessment.

The NIRB has made the following logistical arrangements for the Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference:

- Interpretation:** Simultaneous English and Inuktitut interpretation will be provided to the extent practicable.
- Seating (in-person meeting only):** Seating will be assigned at each location based on the numbers of parties in each location and requirement to maintain space in Rankin Inlet for public participation. Once the maximum meeting number in Rankin Inlet is reached then no more admissions can occur for that session (a session is the morning, afternoon, and evening time slots for the meetings, separated by breaks longer than a health break). Masks will be required in all in-person sessions and adhering to the NIRB protocols and participants will be required to follow the facility health and safety requirements as well as those for the Territory at the time of the meetings.
- Facilitator:** The Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference will be facilitated by the NIRB's Chairperson.
- Materials:** The NIRB will provide access to the digital copy of all materials contained within the Board's Public Registry for the Meliadine Gold Mine project, including the FEIS Addendum and any additional submissions received up to date and throughout the assessment process.
- Meeting times:** Meetings start at 9:00 a.m. and run until 5:00 p.m. daily (CT), with an hour break for lunch and two 15-minute health breaks throughout the day with an evening session running from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Under the new NIRB protocols, refreshments will not be served so participants must bring their own which should avoid standard allergens.
- Format:** In-person with audio/video feed through a Zoom link and a teleconference option (details provided to registered participants).

Given the limited gathering sizes allowed under current public health orders, seating must be designated and the NIRB will make efforts to ensure fair and appropriate allocation of seats per registered party. The NIRB expects that registered parties maintain full and on-time attendance for their allocated number of seats, for the duration of the meetings, with respect for the limited capacity of the venue and the importance of maintaining adequate seating for members of the public in Rankin Inlet to attend the Community Roundtable.

Due to the preceding requirements, it is **critical that parties confirm the list of in-person attendees representing their organizations as soon as possible to ensure they will have the appropriate number of seats in Rankin Inlet.** Additionally, parties are requested to provide a list of representatives that will attend through the Zoom link or teleconference options, including name, position, respective area of expertise or authority, and email. **Parties should also indicate which individual will be the key speaker for the Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference and this information is required on or before January 27, 2021.**

PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY AND MEDIA

In an effort to improve public accessibility and participation, the Board is pleased to advise parties that it will be providing the proceedings to all participants through both an audio/video Zoom link and teleconference. All participants will be able to both listen and speak at the meetings in English and Inuktitut through both the Zoom link and designated teleconference lines; however, their audio will be muted, and their video turned off by the technicians until they are addressed to speak by the NIRB's Chair. Should they wish, parties will also be able to listen in English, Inuktitut, or the floor microphone feed through a designated channel once signed into the Zoom link. If using the teleconference lines, parties will only be able to access the English or Inuktitut feeds, requiring them to choose a language they are comfortable both listening and speaking in. Once dialed into the designated teleconference line for their preferred language, parties will be required to speak in the language of that line to ensure interpretation is possible.

Should parties have the bandwidth capabilities, the Board recommends that they attend the proceedings using the Zoom link, this will provide participants with both audio and video on a single platform. When signing in with the Zoom link, it is imperative that you accurately indicate your name, affiliation, and email address in the sign in box to allow technicians to identify the correct person when they are asked to speak. **For Participants who will be actively speaking throughout the proceedings (i.e., Proponent, key speakers, etc.) and will be using the Zoom link to respond to questions, the Board is requesting that you be available for a brief testing session, Wednesday February 10, 2021 at 2:00 PM CST.** This will allow our technicians to bring each participant into the meeting and test their audio/ video feeds and troubleshoot any issues in advance of the proceedings. Throughout the discussions, the NIRB's Chair will address the designated Organizational lead and it will be their responsibility to indicate the name and location of their representative who will be speaking.

Should participants be unable to use Zoom due to bandwidth limitations, it is recommended that you call in using the teleconference details that will be provided the week of February 8, 2021. For individuals using the teleconference line, you will be responsible to coordinate with your key speaker if you are required to speak, this will allow the technicians to unmute your line allowing you to proceed.

PRESENTATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

During the Community Roundtable, Agnico Eagle will be expected to present an overview of the Proposal to community representatives and the public, including a discussion on the project components and design, the associated impact assessment findings, and outline its response to community concerns raised to date. The presentation(s) should be organized by project component and include findings of the assessment and issues identified/resolved to date for each component. Agnico Eagle is encouraged to have tools and resources available to assist in their responses to themes, especially to help community members visualize the components and project management activities which may be used during the discussions and ensure that the NIRB is provided copies prior to the beginning of the community roundtable.

Agnico Eagle must notify the NIRB as soon as possible if any of the materials they wish to present are larger than 10MB as methods to transfer the data will have to be considered. Agnico Eagle will also be required to supply print copies of its Community Roundtable presentation in sufficient

numbers for the community representatives and public in Rankin Inlet, with translations in Inuktitut (approximately 40 copies in each language). Digital copies of the presentations must be provided to the NIRB by **February 3, 2021** to ensure that all parties can have access via the NIRB's online Public Registry in advance of the meetings.

Responsible Authorities will not be formally presenting at the Community Roundtable but should be prepared to speak to several important topics such as their role in the assessment, information on their interventions, and generally be prepared to respond to questions from community representatives and the public regarding the technical assessment of the Proposal. If Agnico Eagle or parties are asked to provide background on the original Meliadine project and project activities not included within the scope of this assessment, the NIRB asks everyone to please keep responses short and direct.

MEDIA ACCESS

The NIRB is supportive of any planned efforts by public media outlets to cover or record the Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference and will ensure that media representatives are granted sufficient access to the proceedings to report accurately, while maintaining adherence to public health orders. The NIRB has established rules for recording of Pre-hearing Conference and other proceedings, and due to the COVID-19 protocols will require all media outlets that wish to observe, to provide the NIRB with advanced notice to assist in minimizing disruptions and plan for options should they wish to make either an audio or video recording. As such, the NIRB requests that all media outlets that wish to record proceedings during the Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference (film, photograph, audio) request media access from the Board on or before **January 27, 2021**.

NEXT STEPS

In summary, parties planning to participate in the upcoming meetings for the NIRB's assessment of Agnico Eagle's "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment" Project Proposal are required to provide the NIRB with the following information by **January 27, 2021**:

- Comments regarding the revised draft Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference agenda (Appendix A);
- List of representatives that wish to attend the sessions, including: name, position and respective area of expertise or authority, email, phone number and location participating from, and which sessions they expect to participate in. Parties should also indicate which individual will be the key speaker for the Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference.
- Any requests for specialized audio/visual equipment and/or specific logistical arrangements that may be required during the proceedings;
- Any request by public media outlets to cover the proceedings; and
- Any requirement for French interpretation for the Community Roundtable or Pre-hearing Conference.

The NIRB reminds Agnico Eagle of the following deadline in advance of the upcoming Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference for the Board's assessment of the "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment" Project Proposal:

February 3, 2021: Agnico Eagle to submit electronic copies of presentations and translations to the NIRB for the Community Roundtable.

February 5, 2021: Agnico Eagle to submit a final list of commitments to the NIRB for the Pre-hearing Conference.

Parties are asked to direct all forthcoming submissions to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca. Should you require clarification on the NIRB's assessment of the "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment" Project Proposal, please contact Keith Morrison, Manager Impact Assessment, at kmorrison@nirb.ca or Emily Koide, Technical Advisor I, at ekoide@nirb.ca.

The Board would like to remind media members to identify themselves to the Board staff in-person or if participating by Zoom link or teleconference, email the Board's Executive Director, Karen Costello at kcostello@nirb.ca 15 minutes prior to the start of the Meeting to confirm your participation in the for the day.

Sincerely,



Keith Morrison
Manager, Impact Assessment
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Appendix A – *Revised Draft* Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference Agenda for Agnico Eagle's "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment" Project Proposal

Attached (2): NIRB COVID-19 Protocols (English and Inuktitut) [November 5, 2020]

cc: Jamie Quesnel, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Bert Dean, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Natalie O'Grady, Government of Nunavut
Adrian Paradis, Northern Projects Management Office
Alexandre Chaikine, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Margaret Fairbairn, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Daniel Coombs, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Joel Kaushansky, Health Canada
Anita Gudmundson, Transport Canada
Clayton Tartak, Kivalliq Wildlife Board
Roger Pilakapsi, Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization
Harry Aggark, Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers Organization
Sam Muchpah, Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization
Philip Putumiraqtuq, Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization
Simon Enuapik Sr., Issatik Hunters and Trappers Organization
Sayisi Dene First Nation
Northlands Denesuline First Nation

APPENDIX A:
REVISED DRAFT COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE AND PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE AGENDA

NIRB File No.: 11MN034 – Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment (Saline Waterline) Project Proposal

Proponent: Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

Facilitator: Kaviq Kaluraq, Chairperson, NIRB

Dates: February 11-12, 2021

Format: In-person with audio/video feed (details provided to registered participants)

Locations: Community Hall, Rankin Inlet, NU (in-person)

Times: **All times given are approximate and the order of discussion topics are subject to change at the NIRB’s discretion. An additional evening session may be scheduled if deemed necessary to complete the agenda.**

Community Roundtable Sessions: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm CT and
9:00 am – 12:00 pm CT

Evening Session: 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm CT

Pre-hearing Conference: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm CT

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 – Zoom Training Session – 2:00 p.m.

Participants using Zoom to present will be required to participate in a training session to test their audio/video feeds and troubleshoot any issues in advance of the Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference.

Community Representative Orientation – February 10, 2021 – 6:30 pm

An orientation session will be held for community representatives to demonstrate how proceedings will be conducted and to prepare for the Community Roundtable Meeting.

Day 1 Community Roundtable – February 11, 2021 (including evening session)

General Opening:

1. NIRB Welcome and Opening Remarks (35 minutes)
 - a. Opening prayer
 - b. Opening statements from Public Health Nurse
 - c. Opening statements from Mayor of Rankin Inlet
 - d. Objectives of Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference
 - e. Overview of the NIRB process and status of the assessment
 - f. Introduction of Participants
 - g. Overview of Agenda
 - h. Housekeeping items

Community Roundtable Session:

2. Summary presentation by the Proponent – **Introduction and Overview of Project Proposal** including scope of projects activities, construction, operation and removal/reclamation of project components, summary of public engagement and incorporation of Inuit Qaujimaningit into project design. (25 minutes)
 - Questioning of the Proponent and parties by community representatives
 - Questioning of the Proponent by Aqigiq HTO, Issatik HTO, and Arviat HTO
 - Questions or statements from the public to the Proponent or parties
3. Summary presentation by the Proponent – **Terrestrial Environment (including soils and terrain, permafrost, vegetation, and terrestrial waterways)** including construction, operation and removal/reclamation of terrestrial project components, effects assessment, management and mitigation plans and/or programs and incorporation of Inuit Qaujimaningit into their design, and associated conclusions (15 minutes)
 - Questioning of the Proponent and parties by community representatives
 - Questioning of the Proponent by Aqigiq HTO, Issatik HTO, and Arviat HTO
 - Questions or statements from the public to the Proponent or parties
4. Summary presentation by the Proponent – **Terrestrial Wildlife** including effects assessment, management plans and/or programs and incorporation of Inuit Qaujimaningit into their design, and associated conclusions (15 minutes)
 - Questioning of the Proponent and parties by community representatives
 - Questioning of the Proponent by Aqigiq HTO, Issatik HTO, and Arviat HTO
 - Questions or statements from the public to the Proponent or parties
5. Summary presentation by the Proponent – **Cumulative and Transboundary Effects** including effects assessment, related management and mitigation plans and/or programs and associated conclusions (10 minutes)
 - Questioning of the Proponent and parties by community representatives
 - Questioning of the Proponent by Aqigiq HTO, Issatik HTO, and Arviat HTO
 - Questions or statements from the public to the Proponent or parties
6. Summary presentation by the Proponent – **Marine Environment** including construction, operation and removal/reclamation of marine project components, effects assessment, management and mitigation plans and/or programs, and incorporation of Inuit Qaujimaningit into their design, and associated conclusions (10 minutes)
 - Questioning of the Proponent and parties by community representatives
 - Questioning of the Proponent by Aqigiq HTO, Issatik HTO, and Arviat HTO
 - Questions or statements from the public to the Proponent or parties

Close of Day 1

Day 2 Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference – February 12, 2021 (morning)

Community Roundtable Session (continued from Day 1):

7. NIRB Opening Remarks

Community Roundtable Session:

8. Summary presentation by the Proponent – **Accidents and Malfunctions** including effects assessment, management and mitigation plans and/or programs and incorporation of Inuit Qaujimaningit into their design, and associated conclusions (*10 minutes*)
 - Questioning of the Proponent and parties by community representatives
 - Questioning of the Proponent by Aqigiq HTO, Issatik HTO, and Arviat HTO
 - Questions or statements from the public to the Proponent or parties
9. Summary presentation by the Proponent – **Human Health** including effects assessment of human health, related management and mitigation plans and/or programs and associated conclusions (*10 minutes*)
 - Questioning of the Proponent and parties by community representatives
 - Questioning of the Proponent by Aqigiq HTO, Issatik HTO, and Arviat HTO
 - Questions or statements from the public to the Proponent or parties
10. Summary presentation by the Proponent – **Socio-economic Environment** including effects assessment traditional land and resource use and employment and procurement, related management and mitigation plans and/or programs and associated conclusions (*10 minutes*)
 - Questioning of the Proponent and parties by community representatives
 - Questioning of the Proponent by Aqigiq HTO, Issatik HTO, and Arviat HTO
 - Questions or statements from the public to the Proponent or parties
11. Closing statements from each community

Close of Day 2

Day 2 Pre-Hearing Conference – February 12, 2021 (afternoon)

Pre-hearing Conference

1. NIRB Opening Remarks (*15 minutes*)
 - a. Community Roundtable Recap
 - b. Overview of Agenda
2. Identification of any issues preventing the scheduling of a Public Hearing (both NIRB and/or parties)
3. Discussion and facilitation of the Public Hearing processes – parties at the table will be given an opportunity to comment on the following:

- a. Anticipated date, time, form, and location(s) to schedule the Public Hearing;
 - b. Timetable for the exchange of additional documents and information requests prior to the Public Hearing;
 - c. Confirmation of commitments list by parties;
 - d. Finalization of issues for the Public Hearing, and identification of interested parties to attend the Public Hearing;
 - e. Procedures to be followed for scheduling a Public Hearing including public meeting safety planning for COVID-19 and exposure control plan;
 - f. Logistics arrangement, equipment, language, interpretation, translation, and transcript requirements; and
 - g. Other matters that may aid in the simplification of the Public Hearing.
4. Closing remarks from parties
 5. NIRB closing remarks and next steps
 6. Closing Prayer

Close of Pre-hearing Conference