NIRB File No.: 11MN034

April 9, 2021

Harry Towtongie
Mayor of Rankin Inlet
Box 310
Rankin Inlet, NU X0C 0G0

Sent via email: harryt@qiniq.com *and* info@rankininlet.ca

Re: Invitation to Appoint Community Representatives to Participate in the Public Hearing for the NIRB's Assessment of Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment" Project Proposal

Appointment Due Date: April 28, 2021

Dear Harry Towtongie:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) will be holding a Public Hearing as part of the Board's assessment of Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's (Agnico Eagle) "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment" Project Proposal, a proposed amendment to the approved Meliadine Gold Mine Project (NIRB File No.: 11MN034, Project Certificate No. 006). The Public Hearing will be held **in-person in Rankin Inlet on May 17-20, 2021**. This letter is an invitation for your organization to select **one (1) Hamlet of Rankin Inlet** community representative to attend the Public Hearing in Rankin Inlet to express the views of your community at the Community Roundtable sessions.

Public Hearing Details
Technical Presentations: May 17-18, 2021
Community Roundtable Sessions: May 18-20, 2021
Project Title: "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment"
Proposed by: Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

Please note that nominating a community representative for the NIRB is a separate process to Participant Funding provided by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC). Your organization's nomination for a NIRB community representative **should be a different individual than any attending the meetings as an Intervenor**. The NIRB community representative is expected to represent the broad views of the community and the organization they were nominated by during the Community Roundtable Sessions.

The individual selected as a community representative does not need to be an elected official or staff person from your organization and it is encouraged that this individual be a member of the general public in order for the Board to hear the broad perspectives of the community. **The NIRB would like to encourage that all demographics including Hamlets, Hunters and Trappers Organizations, Women, Youth and Elders are represented during the Public Hearing and the Board expects communities to prioritize appointments that would be reflective of this.** However, it is also important that the appointed person be comfortable speaking and asking questions publicly as well as being able to share their views on behalf of your organization and/or your community. Please note that the NIRB is also in contact with other organizations and groups in your community to invite participants to attend the upcoming Public Hearing and coordination is encouraged to ensure all appointments occur.

It is important that the community representative be present for the entire Public Hearing and be able to participate during the Community Roundtable. Members of the community have important knowledge that is critical to the NIRB's impact assessment process as community members provide Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Inuit Qaujimaningit through discussions about the project proposal. **During the Community Roundtable Sessions**, the Board will provide opportunities for the community representatives to ask questions and offer comments and these statements help the Board gain a better understanding of each community's views, perspectives, and knowledge about the "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment" Project Proposal as well as the area and region.

The NIRB does not provide any honoraria payments for community representatives, if participation in Rankin Inlet is not possible due to public health restrictions, the community representative **will be assisted to participate through the audio and/or video feeds or teleconference line to support two-way communication and participation**.

Once the representatives have been selected by your organization, please provide them with all of the information in this letter:

1) Appendix A includes direction on the community representatives' role during the Public Hearing;
2) Appendix B is required to designate the appointed representatives;
3) Appendix C contains a description of the proposal;
4) Appendix D is the NIRB's COVID-19 protocols.

Please have the community representatives complete the following forms and submit to the NIRB office at info@nirb.ca or via fax (867) 983-2594 by **April 28, 2021 as there will be no extensions:**

1. Community Representative Information Form (attached Appendix B).

Thank you in advance for selecting representatives to participate in the NIRB's Public Hearing for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment" Project Proposal. We look forward to working with your selected representatives at the Public Hearing.
All information relating to Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment" Project Proposal can be accessed online from the NIRB's online Public Registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125515.

If you have any questions about selecting community representatives for this event, please contact the undersigned by email at staptuna@nirb.ca or by calling toll-free at 1-866-233-3033.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Taptuna
Manager, Communications
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Bert Dean, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Ashley Ymana, Hamlet of Rankin Inlet

Attachments (4): Appendix A – Role of Community Representative
Appendix B – Community Representative Information Form
Appendix C – Project Description
Appendix D – NIRB's COVID-19 Protocols

Appendix A: Community Representative's Role

As a community that may be affected by the proposed project, it is important that the representatives be present for the entire Public Hearing and be able to participate during the Community Roundtable. Members of the community have important knowledge that is critical to the NIRB's impact assessment process as community members provide Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Inuit Qaujimaningit through discussions about the project proposal.

The Public Hearing will be structured as follows:

LOCATION	DATE	TIME	SCHEDULE
Singiituq Complex Recreation Hall, Rankin Inlet, NU	May 17-18, 2021	9:00 am – 5:00 pm; 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Technical Presentations
	May 18-20, 2021	9:00 am – 5:00 pm; 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Community Roundtable

*** NOTE: The NIRB may extend timing of any scheduled sessions as required.**

The NIRB will be holding a brief information meeting for representatives on the **evening of Sunday, May 16, 2021** to prepare representatives for participation in the Public Hearing. If travel from your community to Rankin Inlet is not possible due to public health restrictions, the community representative will be assisted to participate through the audio and/or video feeds or teleconference line to support two-way communication and participation.

Community representatives will be provided with opportunities to share any comments, questions, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Inuit Qaujimaningit, or concerns with the NIRB at the Community Roundtable. The Board will consider this information when making its recommendations to the federal government regarding the "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment". As a representative, you are encouraged to speak with other members of your community or organization prior to attending the Public Hearing to ensure a broad understanding of the community's ideas or concerns about the proposed project amendment and, at a minimum, provide information on the following questions:

1. How might the environment around my community be affected?
2. How might the environment in my region be affected?
3. How might traditional activities, that either I or my community participate in, be affected or changed with the proposed amendment?
4. What are the potential changes with the proposed amendment to the already approved Meliadine Project that I am concerned about?
    - Have my concerns been addressed?
    - If my concerns have not been addressed, what suggestions do I have to address these concerns (including plans or actions to avoid or reduce a negative effect and monitoring plans)?
5. Do I support the proposed amendment? Why or why not?
6. What other questions do I have that have not been answered?
    - Is there additional information that needs to be collected?

Appendix B: Community Representative Information Form

Event: NIRB's Public Hearing for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment"
Dates: May 17-20, 2021
Community: Rankin Inlet , NU
Location: Singiituq Complex Recreation Hall

Representative information:
Name on Photo ID (required for booking travel, please print clearly)

Name:_____

Gender: □Male □Female

Email address:_____ ***required for providing travel information***

Telephone Number:_____

Community represented:_____

Nominating Agency: □ KIA Elder □ KIA Woman □KIA Youth
□Hamlet □HTO

The Nunavut Impact Review Board CANNOT provide honoraria to participants. It is unethical for an Institution of Public Government, such as the NIRB, to compensate representatives participating in a quasi-judicial process. Any decision to provide honoraria to a participant would be one made by the participants' representing organization, and not by the NIRB. Additionally, Community Representatives travelling to the Public Hearing should be prepared to pay for initial meals or incidentals if Per Diem is delayed.

I _____ acknowledge understanding that the NIRB cannot provide honoraria payment for my participation in the NIRB's Public Hearing for Agnico Eagle's "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environement" Project Proposal

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

If representative less than 19 years of age, *please have the Parent or Guardian complete the following section:*

Age of representative:_____

Name of Parent/Guardian:_____Telephone Number: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian providing permission to attend:_____
Emergency contact person:

Name:_____Telephone number:_____

Appendix C: Project Description

PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

Introduction

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle) is proposing to convey water through waterlines (two 16 inch diameter pipes) instead of trucking and release an increased volume of treated groundwater from Meliadine Mine into the ocean at Melvin Bay through a waterline and an engineered structure that disperses water (known as a diffuser) near Rankin Inlet. The waterline will be constructed along the All-weather Access Road (AWAR) and the bypass road.

Addendum Description

Ownership: Agnico Eagle Mines Limited owns the Meliadine Project.

Location: Easement area along the AWAR and Bypass Road, Itivia Fuel Storage Facility at Rankin Inlet, and treated groundwater effluent discharged through the discharge pipe and engineered diffuser into Melvin Bay.

Access: The treated groundwater will be conveyed through the waterlines along the 34 km of the AWAR and bypass road between Rankin Inlet and the Meliadine Mine. The AWAR is 34 km long, two-lane, and open to public but with controlled access. The Rankin Inlet bypass road is 7 km long and closed to the public.

Source of Groundwater Effluent: groundwater inflows to the underground mine at the Tiriganiaq deposit.

Schedule: construction and installation of the waterlines and installation of the discharge pipe and diffuser will start when Agnico Eagle gets all its permits. If approved, construction of the waterline will begin August 2020 and will be completed by June 2021 and the diffuser will be constructed from July to September 2021. Discharge of groundwater treated at the Mine to Melvin Bay will occur every year when there is no ice on Melvin Bay (summer months from May to October), while there is mining at the Meliadine Mine until the Mine closes in 2032.

Discharge process: groundwater will be collected in surface ponds at the Mine site, separate from other water. The groundwater will be treated at the Mine site so that it is safe to discharge into the ocean. Treated groundwater will be conveyed via waterlines from the Mine along the AWAR and discharged through the diffuser into Melvin Bay, approximately 20 metres below the water surface. Discharge will only be undertaken when there is no ice on Melvin Bay (May to October, no under ice discharge) or otherwise approved by the community. Groundwater will be stored underground and in surface ponds during the winter at the Meliadine Mine.

Personnel: a workforce of about 24 people will be needed for the installation of the waterlines and the diffuser.

Impact Assessment Methods

Valued ecosystem components (VECs) and valued socio-economic components (VSECs) are the most important parts of the environment and to people. Agnico Eagle determined if there would be negative impacts from the discharge and waterlines to air quality, noise, vegetation, marine water and sediment quality, marine wildlife and wildlife habitat, terrestrial wildlife (caribou), archaeology, traditional land use, employment, and infrastructure and social services.

The assessment of potential effects due to the proposed changes looked at potential new effects over time and space from those already looked at and approved in 2018. It looked at the potential effects near the Project and Rankin Inlet, in a larger area around the Project and Rankin Inlet and even larger area within the region including potentially all of Nunavut.

The effects assessment was based on data and expert opinion. Available Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and community information was also used. The following were used to assess environmental significance of a potential effect due to the proposed amendment activities:

- how big, how far, and how long an effect will last
- activity design or mitigations to limit or avoid potential effects
- historical, cultural, and archaeological significance of the geographic area likely to be affected by the proposed amendment activities

Feedback from consultation efforts in January and March 2020 showed that the community was neutral, and most concerns were addressed by clarifying Agnico Eagle's Project Description and resulting in the implementation of additional mitigation measures to the Project.

Key Elements and Findings of the Final Environmental Impact Statement Addendum

For the most part, discharge to the ocean does not have much impact on the environment via waterlines from Meliadine Mine. There will be less trucks on the road than what was originally approved for groundwater discharge. This means there will be less dust generated and less noise from the truck traffic and less greenhouse gases. It also means less truck traffic that could interact with caribou and other wildlife. The discharge of treated groundwater to the ocean could affect marine water quality, marine mammals, marine fish, and other small organisms in the water; however, based on outcomes of modelling, the impacts are similar to those identified in 2018. Agnico Eagle plans to continue monitoring the water and the animals to confirm that it is safe to discharge and the benefits outweigh the impacts.

Most effects from the Project are related to the waterlines as discharge to the marine environment has been looked at and approved. The waterlines will be built close to the road on the tundra, impacting vegetation, where the waterlines will lie. Crossings will need to be put in place, where required. There is a possibility that the waterlines could spill on the tundra or into the ocean. The effluent is treated groundwater that is like ocean water. Even if the waterline or diffuser had a leak it would still be safe and Agnico Eagle would fix any leaks in the waterline and stop the spill. Mitigation identified in the Spill Contingency Plan and environmental design features will be in place to limit the number and size of spills that result from Project activities, including monitoring the waterline for leaks.

Impacts from the ocean discharge to people are expected to be minimal. While there are a few jobs available, most of the employees will come from the region. People will still be able to snowmobile on Melvin Bay as they do now, and they will still be able to access the land along the AWAR as they do now.

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Appendix D: NIRB COVID-19 Protocols

PUBLIC MEETING EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

Sign in procedures

The NIRB will maintain a sign in desk for all participants entering a venue to sign in with their name and phone number. The NIRB staff member administering this desk will either have a protective glass separating them from the participants entering. Where this is not achievable, the NIRB staff member will be required to wear a face mask.

The NIRB staff member will keep an accurate count of participants inside the venue. are not exceeded. Entry will be denied once the capacity target is reached.

Participants when signing in will be asked if they have a cough, fever or shortness of breath and have been outside of the territory in the last 14 days. If they do, they will be asked to refrain from the meeting. If the symptomatic person has an inquiry that they want addressed, they provide their concerns in writing to be presented by a proxy.

Social Distancing

Social Distancing of 2 meters will be mandatory for all meeting Participants.

Personal Protective Equipment

Current advice for Nunavut concludes that non-medical facemasks are not mandatory for daily wear, NIRB will follow suit. The NIRB will supply daily masks for individuals who choose to wear them at Public Meetings, but they will not be mandatory until Public Health Orders change. If, during the meeting, social distancing cannot be maintained (i.e.: small meeting spaces, non-compliant members of the Public on the 2-meter social distancing order, etc.) masks will become a mandatory requirement for entering the Public Meeting space.

Disposable Gloves will also be kept on site for safety measures and staff who may be required to handle sound equipment.

Where the NIRB is required to fly community members to be active in a meeting, each participating community will be provided with masks for air travel for their community representatives.

Hand Washing and Sanitizing

Prior to anyone entering the Public Meeting Space, all attendees must use hand sanitizer. The NIRB will hire a runner/dedicated staffer to dispense hand sanitizing solution to all persons coming into the meeting venue.

Cleaning and Disinfection

NIRB will ensure high touch areas, such as microphones and other shared sound gear, is disinfected prior to the next participant using the equipment. This will also be done for tables and chairs when Intervenors or Community Reps move from the Public Side of the Meeting to the

Round Table. At the end of each day Audio/Video technicians will ensure all equipment is ready for the next day's use, including cleaning and disinfection.

Venue staff will be asked to do large cleaning at the end of each meeting day.

Ensuring Proper Protocol Regarding Social Distancing is followed

Each member of the Public who does not adhere to the social distancing requirement will receive one (1) warning, Further infractions will result in an individual being asked to leave the premises. Examples of noncompliance include: not physical distancing when seeing family members and friends from other communities, refusing the use hand sanitizer, trying to force entry when visibly sick.

Warnings will be included in a logbook of incidents for back-up purposes. NIRB Staff will make sure to use plain language and language of preference when communicating the warning and will ensure that the message is understood before logging the incident.

External Contractors

NIRB Audio / Sound technicians and Court Reporters will be hired through an outside firm from outside of the Government of Nunavut's Common Travel Area. The NIRB will be seeking to classify these external contractors as essential service workers given there are no service providers capable of conducting the required work in Nunavut. This means they will be required to isolate in their hotel accommodation outside of work hours, will wear a mask and disposable gloves, and return to their hotel accommodations at the end of each day with no interaction with the Public after the meeting. Although negative COVID-19 tests are not required for essential services through the Government of Nunavut's public heath orders, the NIRB will insist that all external contractors provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test before entering the territory.

Public Health and Health Centre

The NIRB will advise local health centers or public health units that a public meeting is scheduled in advanced so that they are aware of a large public gathering taking place. The NIRB will invite members of Public Health Office or the local Health Centre to provide opening remarks at the start of meetings in each Nunavut hub location. They will be invited to speak about social distancing and how to interact in a public space with other members of the public to ensure the safety of everyone. The NIRB will provide all COVID-19 action plans and measures for Public Safety to Public Health and local Health Centers.

Security

NIRB has decided against hiring an outside security firm, as this has negative implications in a neutral meeting space. The NIRB will endeavor to hire additional local people to help with venue sign-in, cleaning and disinfecting, and identifying individuals not from the same households who are not respecting the social distance rule. Individuals who do not adhere to the policies and procedures in place will be asked to leave the meeting venue and not come back. This includes community representatives.

Individuals who are visibly sick (in this case, with symptoms associated with Covid-19) will be asked to leave. The NIRB will create COVID-19 specific protocols and procedures for asking an individual to leave and associated documentation for transparency and fairness.

Signage

The NIRB will post current Publications and Signage from the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada at all venues. This will include signs on social distancing, handwashing, the Government of Nunavut COVID-19 hotline and other associated signage in English and Inuktitut. All safety measures will be posted in the venues in clearly visible locations.

Communications

All safety measures will be clearly communicated to Meeting Participants in advance through letters, emails and social media. All advice from the Chief Public Health Officer will be strictly followed and this shall be communicated to all meeting attendees.

Vulnerable Populations

The NIRB will outline the risk of attending large public gatherings to vulnerable groups in advanced. The definition of "Vulnerable populations" as outlined by the Government of Nunavut is:

- an older adult (aged 65 an older)
- underlying medical conditions (e.g. heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, cancer)
- compromised immune system from a medical condition or treatment (e.g. chemotherapy)

NIRB will not bar community representatives with any of the above conditions from participating. This warning is to inform individuals of the risks of attendance.

Floor Plans

NIRB will implement floor plans including one direction walkways and social distancing seating arrangements.

Catering

Coffee and Tea services will not be offered during public meetings, as this leads to a bottleneck effect of many individuals grouped around a small area, with coffee and tea urns becoming highly touched surfaces. Bagged snacks will be offered to Community Reps with choice of individually packaged water bottles or individually packaged juice.

Policies and Procedures

Under the direction of the Executive Director or the Board, meetings may be paused under the following circumstances:

- an active COVID-19 case has been confirmed in the territory
- the Chief Public Health Officer issues instructions to close all public meetings
- The City or Municipality has issued direction to close all Public Meetings

In the event that the meeting is paused, all attendees will be informed they must return to their hotel room at once and await further announcements via Facebook, the local Community Radio Station or a phone call in the case of community representatives.

A separate policy will be created for NIRB staff on a suspected COVID-19 meeting attendee. This will include putting on a mask and disposable gloves prior to talking to the individual, documenting the incident and advising other floor staff of the incident.

If a Board Member becomes ill and needs to leave a Public Meeting, as long as there is quorum the meeting will not need to be paused.