

April 13, 2021

NIRB File No.: 11MN034
NPC File No. 1148672
NWB File No. 2AM-MEL1631

Karen Costello, Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

Dear Ms. Costello:

Notice Re Continuation of the 2020 Saline Discharge Strategy for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project during 2021

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (**Agnico Eagle**) is writing to provide the Nunavut Impact Review Board (**NIRB**) with notice of the enclosed submission to the Nunavut Planning Commission (**NPC**) and subsequent conformity decision by NPC.

As set out in its submission to NPC of December 21, 2020, during 2020, Agnico Eagle proposed interim measures which would result in an increase from 800 m³ per day to up to 1600 m³ per day in the amount of saline groundwater (saline effluent) transported by truck to storage trucks at Itivia Harbour for discharge into Melvin Bay during the summer of 2020 (the 2020 Saline Discharge Strategy).

At the time the 2020 Saline Discharge Strategy was first presented by Agnico Eagle to the NIRB in March 2020, Agnico Eagle anticipated that by 2021, transportation and discharge of saline groundwater/effluent at the Project would occur via a new waterline. Unfortunately, due to significant regulatory delays in the NIRB review of the 2020 Saline Effluent Discharge Proposal (aka waterline proposal), plus the ongoing global pandemic and other factors beyond the control of Agnico Eagle, Agnico Eagle has identified that it will be necessary to extend the 2020 Saline Discharge Strategy through 2021.

Agnico Eagle confirms that given the delays in the NIRB process for the waterline proposal (currently scheduled for public hearings in Rankin Inlet from May 17-20), it will be proceeding with implementation of the 2020 Saline Discharge Strategy during 2021, and that as per the NPC's determination of January 20, 2021, no further steps are required by NIRB in relation to this activity:

The above-noted project proposal is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that the increase of the amount of trucked saline effluent from 800 m³ per day up to 1600 m³ per day does not change the general scope of the original or previously amended project activities, and the exemptions noted in Section 12.4.3(a) and (b) of the Nunavut Agreement do not apply.

Similar to 2020, Agnico Eagle will report on this activity as part of its 2021 Annual Report. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Jamie Quesnel
Director, Permitting & Regulatory Affairs
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

Attachment: NPC File # 149443 [Continuation of the 2020 Saline Discharge Strategy for the Meliadine Mine Project during 2021]



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Nunavut Planning Commission
Commission d'Aménagement du Nunavut

January 20, 2021

Richard Dwyer
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Carson Gillis
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Brenda Osmond
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Dear Mr. Dwyer, Ms. McCaie, Ms. Gillis, Ms. Osmond, Ms. Robinson Mr. Spencer, Ms. Maksagak, and Ms. Turmel:

RE: NPC File # 149443 [Continuation of the 2020 Saline Discharge Strategy for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project during 2021]

- **Related NPC File No.: 148672 [Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment, Rankin Inlet, Meliadine Gold Mine]; and 149337 [Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment, Rankin Inlet, Meliadine Gold Mine, Nunavut]**
- **Related NIRB File No.: 11MN034; Related NWB File No.: 2AM-MEL1631.**
- **Location: Kivalliq Region; [near Rankin Inlet].**

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The following works and activities have been proposed in the above-noted project proposal:

1. Interim saline effluent management measures including the increase from 800 m³ per day to up to 1600 m³ per day in the amount of saline groundwater (saline effluent) transported by truck from Itivia Harbour for discharge into Melvin Bay during the summer of 2021.
2. **Modifications to the original/amended project proposal:** Increase of the amount of trucked saline effluent.

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the NPC can be accessed online using the link below.

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) has completed its review of the above noted project proposal. The NPC previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current proposal conformity determination issued on June 8, 2011, January 5, 2018 and March 25, 2020 which still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously reviewed by the Nunavut Impact Review Board, including conveying saline water from the mine site to Melvin Bay by truck (NIRB FILE NO.: 11MN034). It conforms to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, G, and H of the KRLUP.

The above-noted project proposal is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that the increase of the amount of trucked saline effluent from 800 m³ per day to up to 1600 m³ per day does not change the general scope of the original or previously amended project activities, and the exceptions noted in Section 12.4.3 (a) and (b) of the Nunavut Agreement do not apply.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal to the regulatory authorities identified by the proponent. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address:

<https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/project-dashboard.php?appid=149443&sessionid=>

This conformity determination applies only to the above noted project proposal as submitted. The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the Nunavut Agreement to implement any of the applicable conformity requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

My office would be pleased to discuss how best to implement the applicable requirements and to review any draft authorizations that regulatory authorities wish to provide for that purpose. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 979-3444.

Sincerely,



Goump Djalogue
Senior Planner, MCIP, RPP
Nunavut Planning Commission