



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

April 27, 2021

Meliadine Distribution List

Sent via regular email

Re: Notice From the Nunavut Impact Review Board Regarding Postponement of the Upcoming Public Hearing (May 17-20, 2021) Associated with Agnico Eagle Mines Limited’s “Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment” Project Proposal

Dear Parties:

On March 11, 2021 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (Board or NIRB) issued the Notice of a Public Hearing to take place on May 17-20, 2021 in the community of Rankin Inlet, with audio and visual linkages to remote participants, for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited’s (Agnico Eagle) “Saline Effluent Discharge to the Marine Environment” Project Proposal (the Proposal) reflecting the timelines and modification of the Board’s Public Hearing processes as outlined in the Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Report. However since the publication of the Notice of Public Hearing, on April 16, 2021, the Government of Nunavut’s Chief Public Health Officer, (CPHO) declared an outbreak of COVID-19 in Iqaluit, and ordered suspension of public gatherings in Iqaluit, isolation of travellers coming from Iqaluit and imposing self-monitoring requirements for parties who may have been present at various locations in Iqaluit. The CPHO also advised against non-essential travel in the Region. Subsequently, on April 24, 2021 the CPHO issued a statement confirming that two individuals who had travelled from Iqaluit to Rankin Inlet on April 23, 2021 had tested positive for COVID-19.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak was declared in Iqaluit, several parties who had planned to attend the upcoming Public Hearing expressed concern about the safety of travelling from their communities during the outbreak, and also indicated that if they were unable to travel there would be significant limitations on their ability to participate via remote means (technological limits, such as internet capabilities, IT infrastructure and teleconference access). On April 26, 2021, the Board considered the changed circumstances of the Public Hearing, including the following:

- Public health measures currently in place in Rankin Inlet as a result of the 2 positive COVID-19 cases;
- Directions to avoid non-essential travel as directed by the CPHO on April 26, 2021 due to the current outbreak in Iqaluit; and

- The concerns of participants regarding travel, in-person meetings and limits on remote participation.

The Board has concluded that the current outbreak conditions in Iqaluit and the confirmation of positive cases in Rankin Inlet, severely limit the NIRB's ability to carry out these important meetings, and in particular would unduly limit the ability of community representatives, community groups and interested community members in Rankin Inlet to participate fully and effectively. Consequently, the NIRB is **cancelling** the upcoming Public Hearing that was to take place on May 17-20, 2021 in the community of Rankin Inlet. Unfortunately, as the circumstances, including restrictions on travel and public gatherings are continuing to change as public health authorities continue with their contact tracing and other outbreak response actions, the NIRB is unable to provide parties with guidance regarding the re-scheduling of the Public Hearing at this time. The NIRB will continue to monitor developments and the guidance of public health authorities and will provide scheduling and procedural guidance in the coming weeks as soon as the Board is able to confirm such details.

Recognizing that updated procedural guidance may affect the format and timing of the Public Hearing, the Board will not be issuing the final agenda for the Public Hearing until such time as the Board can issue the updated schedule and procedural guidance. However, noting that Intervenor have provided final written submissions but the Proponent's deadline to respond has not yet arrived, the NIRB encourages Agnico Eagle and parties to continue working together to ensure as many issues are resolved as possible prior to the rescheduling of the Public Hearing, and that the Board be kept apprised of the resolution of issues as these occur.

As the Board continues to monitor and respond to ongoing developments arising from the unprecedented public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board appreciates the work of participants in its assessment process and their continued participation despite these very challenging circumstances. While the Board recognizes the importance of the Board carrying out timely and thorough assessments during these exceptional times, the Board does continue to be guided by the overriding requirement that the NIRB continues to preserve the health and safety of Nunavummiut and all participants in our processes. If you have any questions regarding the Board's approach moving forward, please contact the undersigned directly at (867) 983-4608 or kcostello@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Marjorie Kaviq Kaluraq
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Jamie Quesnel, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited