



AGNICO EAGLE

Meadowbank Division

Whale Tail Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

IVR and Whale Tail Pushbacks

MARCH 29, 2021

VERSION 1

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SECTION 1 • PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 Project Background

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited – Meadowbank Division (Agnico Eagle) operates the Whale Tail Pit Project (Project or Mine), under Project Certificate No. 008, Amendment 001 (NIRB 2020) and Type A Water Licence No. 2AM-WTP1830 (NWB 2020). The Project is located approximately 150 kilometres (km) north of the Hamlet Baker Lake in the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut, and approximately 50 km northwest of the Meadowbank Mine.

The Approved Project includes the following components:

- Whale Tail and IVR open pits;
- Underground mining operations at both the Whale Tail and IVR deposits;
- Whale Tail and IVR Waste Rock Storage Facilities (WRSF);
- Water management infrastructure including Whale Tail and IVR Attenuation Ponds, a system to treat water and sewage, collection ponds, channels, dikes, dams, and culverts to manage on-site water;
- A camp for people, a power plant, a heli-pad, a maintenance shop, a tank farm; and
- Whale Tail Haul Road, to transport ore to the Meadowbank Gold Mine for milling.

There continues to be four phases to the development of the Project and the pushbacks for IVR and Whale Tail continue to fit into these phases:

- **Construction Phase:** The construction phase is now complete and was about 2 years.
- **Operations Phase:** will span seven years, from Year 1 (2019) to Year 7 (2025). Mining activities are expected to end in Year 7 (2025) and ore processing is expected to end during Year 8 (2026). During this time, reclamation of the WRSFs will occur progressively through ongoing cover placement. **There is no change to this phase related to the pushbacks.**
- **Closure Phase:** will commence after the completion of mining and will occur from Year 8 (2026) to Year 24 (2042) and will include removal of the non-essential site infrastructure and the flooding of the mined-out open pits and underground workings, as well as flooding of the Whale Tail Lake (North Basin including the mined-out IVR pit) to a water level of 153.5 m and decommissioning of dikes when water quality meets the regulatory closure objectives. Placement of the WRSFs cover will be completed early in this phase. **There is no change to this phase related to the pushbacks.**
- **Post-closure Phase:** will commence after in Year 24 (2042) after flooding of the pits is completed and water quality is acceptable for direct discharge to the environment.

1.2 Rationale

This Project Description describes a proceeding with an option described in the FEIS Addendum to the Whale Tail Pit Project, as Agnico Eagle has now advanced engineering and design to mine the IVR and Whale Tail Pushbacks.

For clarity, a pushback represents an area that can be mined in a single continuous operation as defined within the Ultimate Pit. It is used to ensure stability of the high wall pit to understand the ore. The pushbacks are not an additional deposit, rather a continuation of the mining ore zone.

In Section 1.8 of the FEIS Addendum (Agnico Eagle 2018) for the Whale Tail Pit Expansion, Agnico Eagle identified the potential to continue exploration activities. The areas of interest identified as potential future developments were selected as they are within the study area for the current Project, IVR Pushback was included as an option.

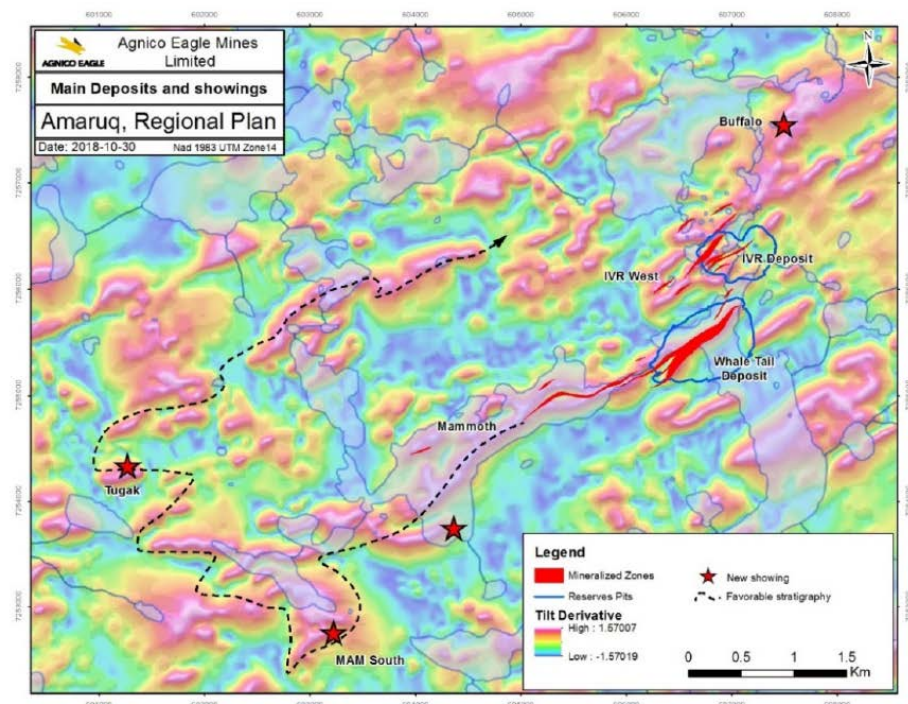


Figure 1.8-2: Geophysics Survey of the Amaruq Exploration Site and Future Development Opportunities

Source: Agnico Eagle (2018).

Further, during the Water Licence Amendment for the Whale Tail Pit Expansion, Agnico Eagle considered that operational flexibility may provide an opportunity to consider the option to backfill a section of the IVR Pit as a potential alternative waste rock management activity as part of the Mine's adaptive management plan. As a potential alternative management option. In the event that the alternative disposal option to backfill a section of the IVR Pit prior to reflooding becomes a possibility,

the disposal plan/options would be evaluated, and an updated waste rock management plan submitted to the Board for technical review. This plan would not be linked to managing environmental risk but would include an assessment of the effects to the closure condition of the refllooded IVR Pit lake and Whale Tail Pit.

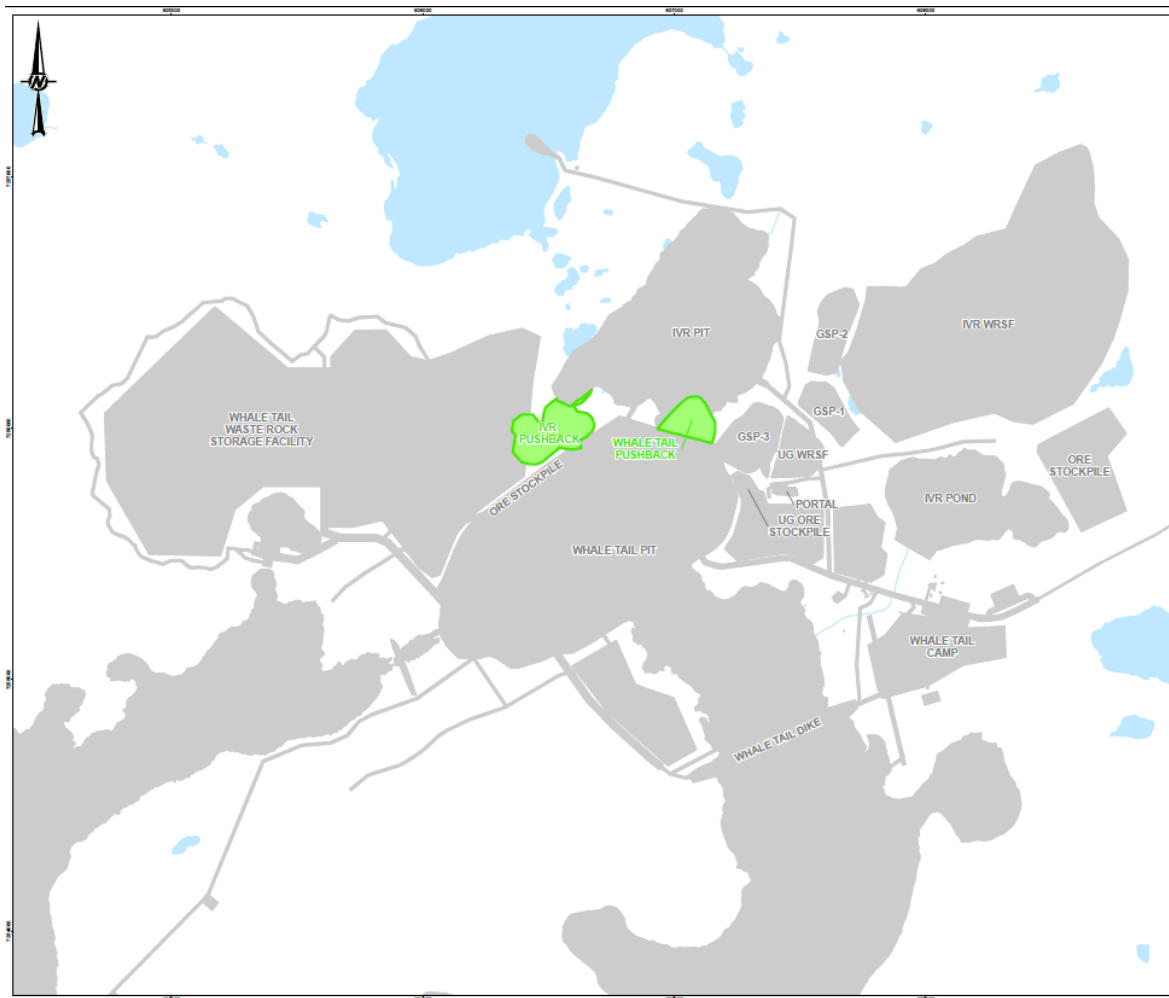
1.3 Project Description

Agnico Eagle has advanced engineering and design to include the:

- IVR Pushback in the southwest portion of the IVR Pit and under the east portion of the Whale Tail WRSF
- Whale Tail Pushback in the northeast portion of the Whale Tail Pit

The IVR and Whale Tail Pushbacks are located within the approved Project footprint (Project Certificate No. 008, Amendment 001), as presented in Figure 1.

Figure 1: IVR Pushback and Whale Tail Pushback



1.3.1 Mine Plan

Activities associated with the IVR and Whale Tail Pushbacks (e.g., waste material and water management) will fit into the approved and permitted Whale Tail Project. The global change to ore and waste is approximately 4% and not a major change, refer to Table 1 for further details.

Table 2 provides an overview of the IVR and Whale Tail Pushbacks, with additional details provided in Sections 1.3.2 to 1.3.4.

Table 1: Waste Changes with IVR and Whale Tail Pushbacks

Items	Approved Plan (V6) ^(a)	Pushbacks V6 PB	Difference	Change
Year	2017-2025	2017-2025	None – included in July 2020 Approved Plan	
Ore Mined (tonnes)	23,520,271	24,346,876	826,605	3.5%
Waste Rock Excavated (tonnes)	167,825,450	175,320,287	7,494,837	4.5%
Overburden Excavated (tonnes)	11,343,574	11,707,480	363,906	3.2%
Total Material Excavated (tonnes)	202,028,216	211,374,642	9,346,426	4.6%
Backfilled material in IVR Pushback (tonnes)		1,926,478	1,926,478	
Backfilled material in UG Mine (tonnes)	2,806,142	2,806,142	None – included in July 2020 Approved Plan	0.0%
Material use for Construction (tonnes)	1,949,202	1,949,202	None – included in July 2020 Approved Plan	0.0%
Waste Rock and Overburden Stored in WRSF (tonnes)	174,413,680	180,345,945	5,932,265	3.4%
Approved WRSF Max Capacity (tonnes)	193,124,590	193,124,590	0	0.0%

a) Agnico Eagle (2020). Plan submitted to and approved by Nunavut Water Board.

Table 2: IVR Pushback and Whale Tail Pushback

Activity	IVR Pushback	Whale Tail Pushback	Permitted	Change (Permitted / Pushbacks)
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary • One winter season • October 2021 to April 2022 • Backfill to initiate May 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the Whale Tail Pit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations to 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change
Waste Management				
Waste Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.7 MT • 1.9 MT of NPAG/NML material from Whale Tail Pit will be used for backfilling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.2 MT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total waste material generated for IVR and Whale Tail Pit Expansion is 179.2 MT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of 6.0 MT of waste rock material stored in WRSF (3% increase)
WRSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposed in approved IVR or Whale Tail WRSF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposed in approved IVR or Whale Tail WRSF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IVR and Whale Tail WRSF have a total maximum capacity of 193 MT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change to the permitted WRSFs, as they can facilitate the increased waste material • No changes anticipated to the approved WRSF footprints
Water Management				
Dewatering	Not applicable	Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IVR Pit = Lake A53 (IVR Attenuation Pond) fish out and dewatering • Whale Tail Pit = North Basin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new dewatering, fish out, or pump out is required for either pushback
Infrastructure	Existing infrastructure	Existing infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water management infrastructure includes contact water collection ponds, freshwater collection ponds, diversion channels, retention dikes, dams, culverts, water treatment plants for effluent, potable water treatment plant, sewage treatment plant, and discharge diffusers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional infrastructure is required from approved infrastructure

Activity	IVR Pushback	Whale Tail Pushback	Permitted	Change (Permitted / Pushbacks)
Closure Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backfill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be part of the final closure strategy under the permitted Whale Tail Expansion Project and the Approved ICRP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes removal of non-essential site infrastructure and flooding of the mined-out open pits and underground, as well as re-establishment of the natural Whale Tail Lake water level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase of 2.4% in volume of water but no change in the timeline
Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste Management Plan Water Management Plan Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste Management Plan Water Management Plan Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste Management Plan v6 (July 2020) Water Management Plan v5 (July 2020) Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan v4 (July 2020) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management Plans for the Whale Tail Project will continue to be followed

1.3.2 Waste Management

Waste rock from IVR and Whale Tail Pushbacks will generate approximately 6.0 MT of mine waste rock material stored in WRSF (3% increase).

Waste rock generated from the IVR Pushback will be disposed of in the approved Whale Tail or IVR WRSFs. The IVR WRSF was designed to accommodate waste rock and overburden generated from the IVR Pit. The waste rock storage footprint, water management infrastructure were designed to consider up to eight years storage capacity to allow for expected resource growth (Agnico Eagle 2018).

Waste rock generated from the Whale Tail Pushback will be disposed of in the approved Whale Tail and IVR WRSF. The Whale Tail WRSF is designed to accommodate waste rock and overburden generated from the Whale Tail and IVR Pits, per the Waste Rock Management Plan (Agnico Eagle 2020) and the Whale Tail WRSF Expansion and IVR WRSF Design Report and Drawings (Agnico Eagle 2019a).

Consistent with Whale Tail Pit operations, a classification system will be used to identify and safely store PAG and ML rock. PAG mine rock will be stored in the designated storage areas designed for long-term stability. NPAG and NML rock will be either stockpiled or used in construction, including for WRSF cover material. Run-off will be appropriately handled.

1.3.3 Water Management

IVR Pushback

Through the FEIS Addendum (Agnico Eagle 2018) and the Water Licence Amendment (Agnico Eagle 2019b) for the Whale Tail Expansion Project, IVR Pit was considered in the overall Project water balance and the IVR Pushback is not anticipated to increase overall water to manage on-site.

As the seven-month mining duration of the IVR Pushback would be completed in the winter season, it is anticipated that pumping of any pushback water would not be required and existing infrastructure can support the associated pushback activities. However, if required, all existing and approved water management infrastructure can handle additional water from IVR Pushback if it does occur.

Whale Tail Pushback

As with IVR Pushback, there is no dewatering or additional pump outs required for the Whale Tail Pushback; therefore, all existing water management infrastructure will be able to manage the pushback activities and no new water management infrastructure is anticipated.

1.3.4 Closure Strategy

IVR Pushback

Following the seven-month mining sequence, the IVR Pushback would be backfilled with NPAG-NML (i.e., clean material), sourced from the approved Whale Tail Pit. Approximately 1.9 MT is anticipated to backfill IVR Pushback. As the IVR Pushback will be backfilled with clean material, no cap will be required. Once IVR Pushback is backfilled with NPAG-NML material, the Whale Tail WRSF will resume and will be built over the backfilled pushback.

Whale Tail Pushback

The Whale Tail Pushback will maintain the approved closure strategy for the Whale Tail Pit, that is, flooding of the mined-out open pits and underground and re-establishment of the natural Whale Tail Lake water level.

Table 3: Closure Strategy Summary

Items	Approved Project	IVR Pushback	Whale Tail Pushback	Pushbacks Total
Volume to be flooded	98,550,349	281,924	2,052,670	2,334,594
Changes		0.3%	2.1%	2.4%
Flooding activity	2026-2042	2026-2042		
Reconnect of South Basin and North Basin	2042	2042		

The following table highlights the sequencing of operations, closure, and post-closure that is part of the Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan that is approved with the associated security. No additional changes to closure sequencing and associated activities will occur with the IVR and Whale Tail Pushbacks.

Table 8.0-1: Proposed Closure and Post-Closure Main Activities Schedule

Component	Description	Operating Stage (Progressive Reclamation)							Closure Stage ^b						Post-Closure Stage					
		Year 1 (2019)	Year 2 (2020)	Year 3 (2021)	Year 4 (2022)	Year 5 (2023)	Year 6 (2024)	Year 7 (2025)	Year 8 (2026)	Year 9 (2027)	Year 10 (2028)	Year 11-Year 18 (2029-2036)	Year 19-Year 23 (2037-2041)	Year 24 (2042)	Year 25 (2043)	Year 26 (2044)	Year 27 (2045)			
Machinery and Mobile Equipment	- Decommission machinery and equipment and ship off-site (leaving only on-site equipment required for closure and post-closure activities) it has been assumed that all machinery and equipment from the underground mine workings have no salvage value and they will be left in the underground workings - Remove equipment used for closure activities (e.g. trucks, backhoes) - Remove equipment used for long-term maintenance (e.g. backhoes)								X											
Nemo Lake Freshwater Pumping System	- Decommission system				X									X			X			
Mammoth Lake Freshwater Pumping System	- Decommission system																X			
South Whale Tail Lake Freshwater Pumping System	- Decommission system													X						
Underground Mine Workings	- Active flooding of underground workings with contact water GSPs and IVR Attenuation Pond, water pumped from Whale Tail lake (South Basin) and groundwater inflows - Remove ventilation system - Cap vent raises with a concrete plug - Backfill portal with NPAG waste rock material								X											
Whale Tail Pit	- Passive flooding of pit area with contact water draining from Industrial sector, Main Camp sector and Whale Tail Attenuation Pond sector and non-contact water from north sector and groundwater inflows - Place warning signs around Pit perimeter and maintain berm from perimeter road								X								X			
IVR Pit	- Passive flooding of pit area with contact water draining from IVR WRSF, Whale Tail WRSF and IVR Pit sector and non-contact water from Northeast sector - Active flooding of pit area with non-contact water from Northeast sector and Whale Tail Lake (South Basin) - Place warning signs around pit perimeters and maintain berm from perimeters road																			
Whale Tail WRSF	- Cover placement - Passive discharge of WRSFs contact water into the pits - Breach Whale Tail WRSF Dike - Decommission Whale Tail WRSF Pond																			
Underground WRSF	- Re-grade areas of former WRSFs to promote natural drainage and natural re-vegetation							X												
Overburden Stockpiles	- Re-grade areas of former Overburden Stockpiles to promote natural drainage and natural re-vegetation							X												
Mine Infrastructure and Support Buildings	- Decommission facilities and re-grade areas as needed - Decommission landfarm																			
Water Management Facilities	- Breach Northeast Dike - Breach IVR dikes - Breach South Whale Tail and Mammoth dikes		X											X						
Water Management Facilities	- Remove pumping system from the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond, IVR Attenuation Pond and GSPs - Decommission GSPs and IVR Attenuation Pond - Decommission TDS Treatment - Decommission O-WTP									X					X					
	- Decommission Mammoth Lake effluent diffuser - Decommission Whale Tail Lake South Basin effluent diffusers or alternative diffusers - Construction of sill in Mammoth Lake									X										
Haul Road	- Decommission of remaining haul road *																X			
Monitoring									Monitor flooding areas and contact water reporting from closed mine facilities											

* Assumed for 20 years after operations; however, closure schedule dependent on monitoring results. Activities will occur when contact water quality satisfies water license criteria for direct discharge and/or access to the site is no longer required

^b The closure stage may be reduced dependent upon water quality results through operations and treatment levels and adaptive management measures implemented that may lead to improved water quality sooner than predicted during the closure stage, thereby allowing for the decommissioning of the dikes prior to Year 24 (2042). A reduction in timeline for the closure stage may also trigger reductions in monitoring, and financial assurances (i.e., security deposits) posted for the Project.

1.4 Alternatives

As presented in Section 1.10.5 of the FEIS Addendum (Agnico Eagle 2018), Agnico Eagle was considering alternatives for waste rock to include potentially in-pit disposal to mined out open pits.

As indicated in the FEIS Addendum (Section 1.2.3), Agnico Eagle suggested an increase to the overall height of the WRSFs could happen in consideration of engineering optimization for increasing capacity. This can occur without increasing the footprint.

1.5 Management Plans

Agnico Eagle is currently operating the Mine and have developed Management Plans that are applicable to the mine site. Table 4 presents a list of Management Plans applicable to the IVR and Whale Tail Pushbacks and will be adhered to for activities required to complete the pushbacks. Agnico Eagle is committed to adhering to all other existing plans that have been developed for the Project. These plans are administered under the Type A Water Licence (2AM-WTP1830).

Table 4: Management Plans Applicable to the IVR and Whale Tail Pushbacks

Management Plan	Current Version of Plan	Changes Required due to the Proposed Change Activities
Waste Rock Management Plan	July 2020; Version 6	Yes, updates will be required to include IVR and Whale Tail Pushbacks
Water Management Plan	July 2020, Version 5	Yes, updates will be required to include IVR and Whale Tail Pushbacks
Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan	July 2020, Version 4	Yes, updates will be required to include IVR and Whale Tail Pushbacks

1.6 Environmental Assessment Summary

Baseline programs have been completed for the Project and have included data collection for the physical environment (e.g., terrain and soils, permafrost, geochemistry, noise, and surface water quantity and quality), biological environment (e.g., vegetation, terrestrial wildlife and birds, and fish and other aquatic organisms), and the cultural environment (e.g., IQ, archaeology, and socio-economics) in support of the environmental assessment (Agnico Eagle 2016, 2018). Agnico Eagle completed an environmental assessment to identify and assess potential environmental and social effects resulting from the Project. The results found the Project will not cause long-term significant negative effects as a result of proposed construction, operations, and closure (Agnico Eagle 2016, 2018).

These pushbacks are within the existing footprint that will be managed by the existing infrastructure and as noted above there are minimal changes related to waste rock tonnage and minimal change to water management. The existing FEIS would cover these changes; therefore, Agnico Eagle feels that no reconsideration of Project Certificate No. 008, Amendment 001 would be required. Rather,

minimal updates of management plans under the Type A Water Licence 2AM-WTP1830 with the Nunavut Water Board would be required to include these minor changes of waste and water management for these pushbacks.

1.7 Conclusion

This document provides an overview and information on the proposed activities and facilities required for the IVR and the Whale Tail Pushbacks.

The IVR and Whale Tail Pushbacks described herein are for planning purposes only and should not be considered final design. Agnico Eagle is committed to responsibly manage waste and water resources to minimize or eliminate potential effects to the environment in accordance with the Project Certificate No. 008, Amendment 001, the Type A Water Licence 2AM-WTP1830, and objectives as outlined in Management Plans for the Project. Agnico Eagle feels the existing infrastructure can maintain the protection of the environment for these pushbacks.

SECTION 2 • REFERENCES

Agnico Eagle (Agnico Eagle Mines Limited). 2016. Whale Tail Pit Project Amendment/Reconsideration of the Project Certificate (No. 004/ File No. 03MN107) and Amendment to the Type A Water Licence (No. 2AM-MEA1525). Submitted to Nunavut Impact Review Board and Nunavut Water Board. June 2016.

Agnico Eagle. 2018. Final Environmental Impact Statement Addendum Whale Tail Pit – Expansion Project. Submitted to Nunavut Impact Review Board. December 2018.

Agnico Eagle. 2019a. Whale Tail WRSF Expansion and IVR WRSF Design Report and Drawings. 60-Day Notice to Nunavut Water Board In Accordance with Water License 2AM-WTP-1826. December 2019.

Agnico Eagle. 2019b. Whale Tail Pit - NWB Water Licence 2AM-WTP1826 Amendment. May 2019.

Agnico Eagle. 2020. Whale Tail Pit – Waste Rock Management Plan. July 2020. Version 6.

NIRB (Nunavut Impact Review Board). 2020. Whale Tail Pit Project, NIRB Project Certificate [No.: 008] – Amendment 001. February 19, 2020.

NWB (Nunavut Water Board). Whale Tail Pit Project, Amended Type A Water Licence 2AM-WTP1830. May 12, 2020.