



# **AGNICO EAGLE**

## **GOT, MEADOW RIVER, MEADOWBANK AND WHITE HILLS EXPLORATION PROJECTS**

### **2020 Annual report**

Screening decision  
15EN050

Prepared by:

**Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, Exploration Division**

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Submitted to:

**Nunavut Impact Review Board**

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**Annual Report**

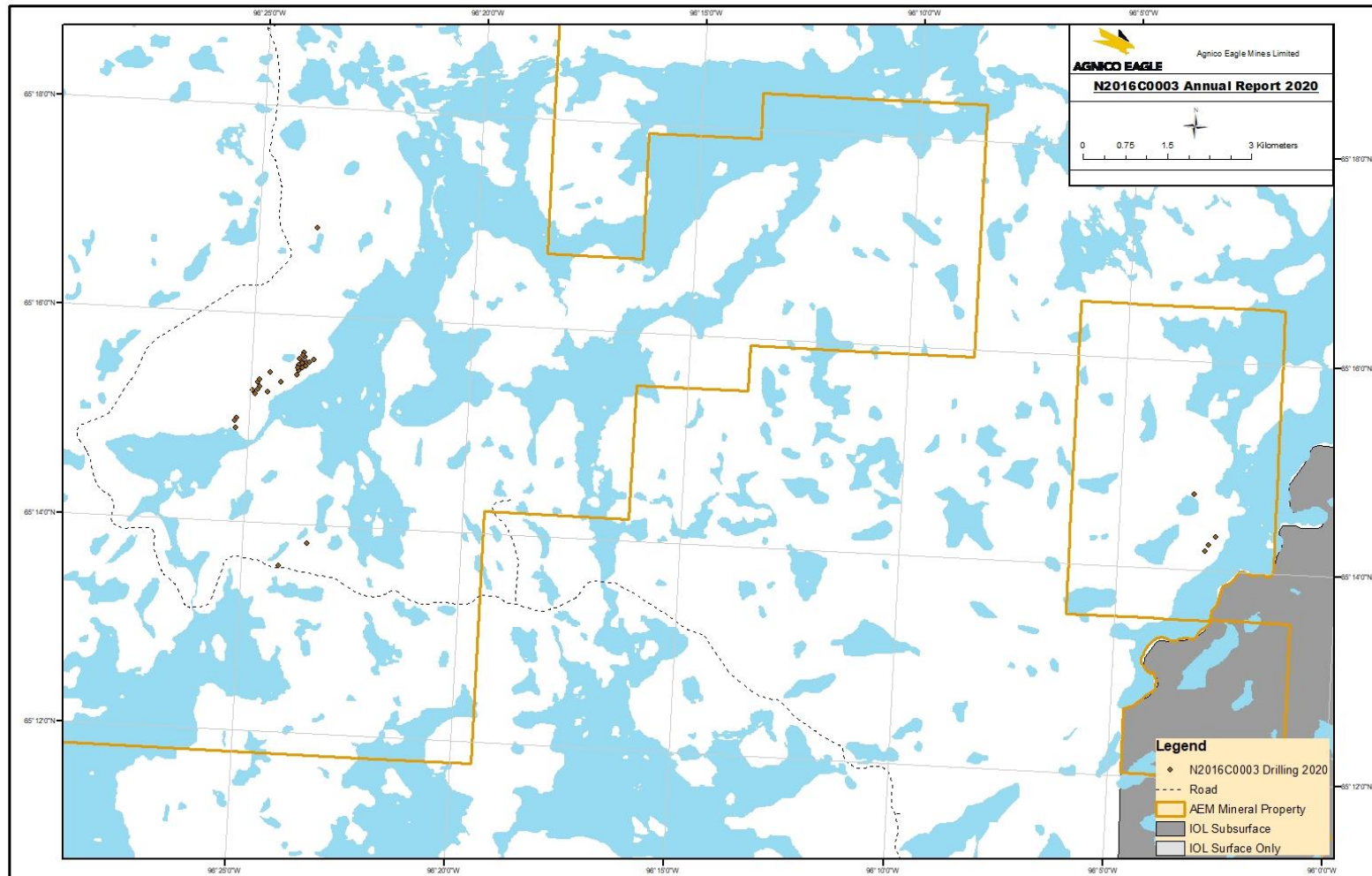
1) The Proponent shall submit a comprehensive annual report with copies provided to the Nunavut Impact Review Board and Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment, by March 31st of each year of permitted activities beginning March 31, 2016. The annual report must contain at least the following information:

a) A summary of activities undertaken for the year, including:

I. a map showing the approximate location of drill sites;

- *In the area covered by this decision, thirty-five (35) holes were drilled in 2020 in the Meadow River area.*

Figure 1, Drilling Locations 2020



II. a map showing the location of the fuel cache;

- *No fuel cache was installed in the area covered by this decision in 2020, but a limited volume of fuel was transported to the drill, in double walled transport tanks, during the drilling.*

III. a description of local hires, contracting opportunities and initiatives;

- *Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in March 2020, Agnico Eagle took measures to isolate our Nunavut operations from local communities with the aim of minimizing any risk of the virus spreading to these communities. Agnico Eagle also sent our entire Nunavut-based workforce (employees and contractors) home from our Meliadine and Meadowbank operations as well as the exploration projects. Agnico Eagle Nunavummiut employees still at home have been receiving 75% of their base pay.*

*Other measures taken included:*

- *Isolation of the mine sites from the communities*
- *All employees are on site on a voluntary basis*
- *We have implemented 3 COVID testing facilities – Val-d’Or, Meliadine mine and Meadowbank Complex*
- *Increased screening measures for all employees before flying to site*
- *All employees and contractors are tested for COVID-19 prior to boarding the planes and placed in isolation on site until their test results are received.*
- *In addition, both sites are implementing re-testing of employees 5 days into their rotation to detect anyone who may have been recently exposed, and in case the disease was in incubation at time of arrival*

IV. flight altitudes, frequency of flights and anticipated flight routes;

- *For long-range transportation flights, we ask all pilots to fly at a minimum of 610m above ground level. Exceptions may exist during takeoff and landing, low-level ceiling conditions, high winds, or other risks to flight safety.*
- *Transport between Amaruq and the exploration areas and between Meadowbank and the exploration areas was done daily during the exploration period.*

b) A summary of the overview assessment conducted of the exploration areas;

- *Archaeologists conducted field visits in the summers from 2016 to 2020 to ensure archaeological site protection during exploration activities. Reports were submitted to the Government of Nunavut by the archaeologists.*
- *The project geologist or his delegate performed site visits before mobilizing the diamond drill to ensure that no sensitive sites were located in the vicinity of the exploration areas.*

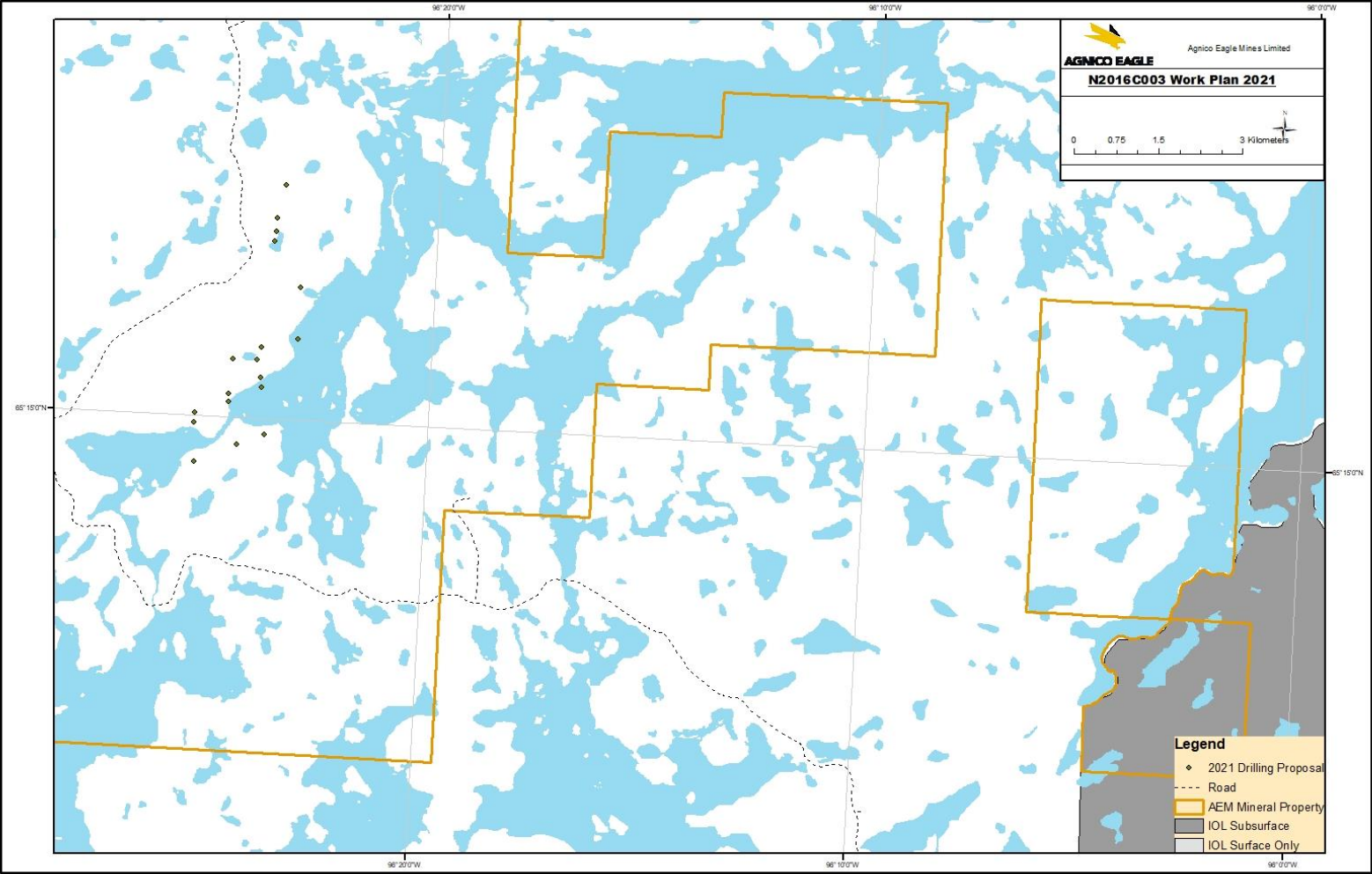
c) A map with details of the winter travel routes that would be used for equipment transportation;

- *No winter travel routes were used in 2020 in the area covered by this decision.*

d) A work plan for the following year, including any progressive reclamation work undertaken;

- *An 18-hole drilling campaign is planned in the area covered by this decision, on Crown Land, under the land use permit N2016C0003. Prospecting, mapping and geophysical surveying could also be conducted on the entire mineral properties covered by this decision.*

Figure 2, Drilling proposal 2021



e) A summary of community consultations undertaken throughout the year, providing copy of materials presented to community members, a description of issues and concerns raised, discussions with community members and advice offered to the company as well as any follow-up actions that were required or taken to resolve any concerns expressed about the project proposal;

- *With the COVID-19 pandemic, exploration activities were all conducted in the vicinity and based from the mine sites to avoid any visit in the communities so as to reduce the risks associated to COVID-19 transmission.*

***Discussions oriented toward exploration projects in 2020 included:***

- *May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Teleconference with Baker Lake Mayor to review and discuss the exploration activities for the season.*
- *June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Teleconference with Whale Cove Mayor and SAO to review and discuss exploration activities.*

f) A log of instances in which community residents occupy or transit through the project area for the purpose of traditional land use or harvesting. This log should include the location and number of people encountered, activity being undertaken (e.g., berry picking, fishing, hunting, camping, etc.), date and time, and any mitigation measures or adaptive management undertaken to prevent disturbance;

- *No community residents occupying or transiting were seen in 2020 during the exploration activities in the areas covered by this decision.*

g) A discussion of issues related to wildlife and environmental monitoring, including the number of cease-work orders required as a result of proximity to caribou;

- *No issue related to wildlife and environmental monitoring in the areas covered by this decision during exploration activities.*

h) A brief summary of Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (WMMP) results as well as any mitigation actions that were undertaken. In addition, the Proponent shall maintain a record of wildlife observations while operating within the project area and include it as part of the summary report. The summary report based on wildlife observations should include the following:

(1) Locations (i.e., latitude and longitude), species, number of animals, a description of the animal activity, and a description of the gender and age of animals if possible.

- *Due to the location of the areas covered by this decision, animal sightings in the areas located near the Amaruq and Meadowbank sites and roads were recorded as part of the environmental monitoring activities and included in the associated report. No others were noted.*

(2) Prior to conducting project activities, the Proponent should map the location of any sensitive wildlife sites such as denning sites, calving areas, caribou crossing sites, and raptor nests in the project area, and identify the timing of critical life history events (i.e., calving, mating, denning and nesting).

- *A visual inspection of the working sites and surrounding areas was conducted before exploration activities started to ensure that no sensitive sites were present in the vicinity of the exploration activities.*

(3) Additionally, the Proponent should indicate potential impacts from the project, and ensure that operational activities are managed and modified to avoid impacts on wildlife and sensitive sites.

- *Spill Contingency Plan, Wildlife Protection and Response Plan, archaeological field investigations, pre-drilling field inspection and other good practices are in place to reduce potential impacts of the exploration activities. This includes, among others, to respect protection buffers around sensitive features, to have working practices to reduce the risk of spills, to have procedures in place in case of a spill, to have procedures during caribou migration, etc.*

i) An analysis of the effectiveness of mitigation measures for wildlife as proposed in the WMMP;

- *No issues related to wildlife occurred during the exploration activities and no interaction with caribou occurred in the area covered under this decision.*



j) Summary of any heritage sites encountered during the exploration activities, any follow-up action or reporting required as a result and how project activities were modified to mitigate impacts on the heritage sites;

- *The archaeologists found archaeological sites during the field investigations in 2016 to 2020. These sites are described in the reports submitted to the Government of Nunavut by the archaeologists, and protection buffers are respected during exploration activities.*

k) Summary of its knowledge of Inuit land use in/near the project area and explain how project activities were modified to mitigate impacts on Inuit land use;

- *Protection buffers are respected around the archaeological and other known sites to ensure to mitigate the impact on the Inuit Land Use. Frequent meetings with the various stakeholders help to mitigate the impacts on Inuit Land Use.*

l) A summary of how the Proponent has complied with conditions contained within this Screening Decision, and all conditions as required by other authorizations associated with the project proposal.

- *Procedures and plans were created to ensure compliance with the conditions associated to this decision and other licenses and permits. The Spill Contingency Plan and the Wildlife Protection and Response Plan describe mitigation measures applied in certain defined situations to ensure prompt actions. Annual reports including details on Agnico Eagle's compliance with obligations are submitted to regulators, including Nunavut Water Board, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and Kivalliq Inuit Association. Compliance inspections by the Kivalliq Inuit Association and by CIRNAC are conducted regularly in the areas where exploration activities are conducted.*