



NEWS RELEASE

NIRB File No.: 11MN034

Nunavut Impact Review Board Issues Reconsideration Report and Recommendations for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited’s “Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment Proposal” for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project

CAMBRIDGE BAY, NU – July 30, 2021 – The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) has issued a Reconsideration Report and Recommendations to present the findings of the Board’s assessment of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.’s (Agnico Eagle) “Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment” Project Proposal (the Waterlines Proposal). As set out in detail within the Board’s Report, the NIRB’s assessment has reviewed and considered the technical issues, concerns, Inuit Qaujimaningit, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and information provided to the Board throughout the assessment of the Waterlines Proposal; **the NIRB has concluded that if conducted in accordance with the Board’s recommendations, this proposed amendment to the Meliadine Gold Mine Project may proceed to the licensing and permitting regulatory phase.**

In the Waterlines Proposal, Agnico Eagle proposed to change the way treated saline groundwater (also described as saline effluent) flowing into the underground mine at the Meliadine Gold Mine site is moved from the mine site and discharged into the ocean at Itivia Harbour (during the open water season). Currently, this water is trucked from the mine to a holding tank at Itivia, but under the Waterlines Proposal the saline effluent would be transported through waterlines to a diffuser pipe that is placed under the water in Melvin Bay. The waterlines are proposed to be located along the existing roadways and would be covered for 80-90% of the length of the waterlines.

The Board’s assessment of the Waterlines Proposal commenced in March 2020, and is the first assessment received, conducted, and completed by the Board wholly during the COVID-19 pandemic. This meant that the Board had to make several changes to our standard timelines, processes, and procedures, sometimes with very short notice, in order to complete the assessment in a manner that complied with public health measures but also met the Board’s objectives to conduct a thorough, inclusive, and timely assessment.

To limit the potential for the Waterlines Proposal to result in negative environmental or socio-economic impacts, the Board has recommended eleven (11) existing terms and conditions in Project Certificate No. 006, Amendment 1 be revised (Nos. 25, 44, 53, 54, 57, 118, 119, 124, 125, 128, and 130). The Board has also recommended that three (3) new terms and conditions (Nos. 132, 133, and 134) be added to the Project Certificate to ensure the potential for effects on the terrestrial wildlife (including caribou) and environment, marine mammals, shellfish, fish, and the marine environment associated with the Waterlines Proposal is minimized. These recommended revisions will also ensure that Agnico Eagle has adequate monitoring for effects in place and that Agnico Eagle's plans to limit potential effects are designed, informed, and adapted to reflect Inuit, Traditional, and Community Knowledge shared by knowledge holders from nearby communities, harvesters and interested transboundary groups.

The Board is grateful to all who shared their experiences, expertise, and perspectives to assist in completing a thorough assessment of the Waterlines Proposal. The NIRB recognizes and appreciates the positive, collaborative, and respectful contributions of all who continue to work together to ensure that the proposed changes to the Meliadine Gold Mine Project deliver lasting benefits to the Kivalliq regions, while minimizing the potential for adverse ecosystemic and socio-economic effects.

The Reconsideration Report and Recommendations includes a plain-language Highlights Document which provides an overview of the Board's decision for all audiences and is available from the NIRB's online Public Registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125515.

Sincerely,



Kaviq Kaluraq
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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