



January 24th, 2022

Emily Koide
Technical Advisor I
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360 Cambridge Bay
Nunavut NU X0B 0C0

RE: NIRB 124106/11MN034: 2020-2021 Annual Monitoring Report and Board's Recommendations for Agnico Eagle's Meliadine Gold Mine Project

Dear Mrs. Koide,

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle) thanks the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the recommendations and comments included in the NIRB's *2020-2021 Annual Monitoring Report for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project and Board's Recommendations* received November 9th, 2021.

Please find attached Agnico Eagle's answers to the above-mentioned recommendations and comments.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With our best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sara Savoie".

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne-Laurence Paquet".

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NIRB Recommendations

NIRB Recommendation 1

2021 Update on the Continuation of the Saline Discharge Strategy - Context

On April 13, 2021, Agnico Eagle provided the NIRB with an update on a proposal submitted to the Nunavut Planning Commission in December 2020 to continue the activities, previously approved under the “2020 Saline Effluent Discharge Strategy”, for an additional open water season (2021) as the NIRB’s continued assessment of the Waterlines Proposal was delayed in its completion due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 activities included the following:

- Increase in trucking of saline effluent along the AWAR and Bypass Road from 16 round trips to 44 round trips per day; and
- Increased discharge of saline effluent into Melvin Bay from 800 m³/day to 1,600 m³/day during the open water season.

On April 21, 2021, the NIRB provided correspondence to Agnico Eagle that acknowledged the Nunavut Planning Commission’s determination that further assessment was not required for an additional season of activity but that the Board’s previous decision to approve the “2020 Saline Effluent Discharge Strategy” was contingent on specific additional monitoring therefore the Board required Agnico Eagle to provide the submission directly to the NIRB to allow confirmation of monitoring requirements.

Recommendation

As a submission was not received by the NIRB in the 2020-2021 monitoring year for the continuation of the “2020 Saline Effluent Discharge Strategy” in 2021, the Board requires the following within 90 days:

- An update as to whether increased trucking and increased discharge activities occurred in the 2021 open water season;
- If so, whether any additional monitoring occurred due to the increase in activities; and
- An analysis on the impacts on air quality, the terrestrial environment, the marine environment, and the socio-economic environment from the increased activities for the 2020 and 2021 open water seasons compared to previous years. The reporting of the data and analysis of these year-over-year comparisons should take into consideration that the results will feed into whether any additional management or monitoring would be required should the increased trucking and discharge need to continue.

Agnico Eagle Answer

Agnico Eagle thanks the Board for their Recommendation and will provide the requested information by February 7th, 2022.



NIRB Recommendation 2

Coordination with the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization - Context

Term and Condition 46 of the Meliadine Gold Mine Project Certificate No. 006 requires “Hiring of a dedicated local survey coordinator through local Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) and provision of adequate resources for the HTOs to run the program”. Within the Terrestrial Environment Management and Monitoring Plan, Version 3 (June 2020), Agnico Eagle states that it collaborates with the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization (KHTO) to conduct wildlife surveys along the all-weather access road (AWAR) which contributes to cumulative effects monitoring and managing mine activities during migration events. However, it is also understood that the Wildlife Protection and Response Plan, Version 8 (January 2019) states that access restrictions are placed on the AWAR when caribou are near the road, and in 2020/2021 additional restrictions were placed on Nunavut mines due to COVID-19 public health restrictions limiting access of Nunavummiut to site. Even with these restrictions, Agnico Eagle addressed concerns submitted by the KHTO in 2021, regarding speed limits and blasting during caribou migration, and materials demonstrated that the KHTO was monitoring the migration with Agnico Eagle in a physically distanced manner with the COVID-19 restrictions.

On September 17, 2021, the NIRB received correspondence from the KHTO that wildlife monitors were denied access to monitor caribou and caribou harvest along the AWAR. However, given previous evidence that the KHTO participated in caribou monitoring in 2021, it is unclear in what capacity the KHTO monitors were denied access to the road, whether these monitors were a part of Agnico Eagle’s wildlife surveys, whether there were multiple incidents of denied access, and whether different KHTO monitors may have different access restrictions. As such, the NIRB would like to provide Agnico Eagle with an opportunity to communicate with the KHTO and respond to the most recent submission regarding access to the AWAR during caribou migration and COVID-19 restrictions.

Recommendation

The Board requires that Agnico Eagle provide an update within 60 days regarding how the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization (KHTO) is involved in caribou monitoring, what restrictions are in place for access to the all-weather access road for additional KHTO monitoring programs, and how these restrictions and/or monitoring requirements are communicated to the KHTO. Further, Agnico Eagle is to ensure that all parties understand the goals and restrictions of caribou monitoring before the 2022 post-calving migration.

Agnico Eagle Answer

Agnico Eagle wishes to clarify that KHTO wildlife monitors are allowed on the AWAR. Relative to the September 17th 2021 correspondence from the KHTO to NIRB, Agnico Eagle discussed its content with the KHTO and considers the issue closed.

It is Agnico Eagle’s understanding the September 17th 2021 correspondence from the KHTO to NIRB referred to a single, isolated event, involving a misunderstanding of adapted COVID procedures by a new Agnico Eagle gatehouse employee.



Following this event, Agnico Eagle took prompt action and provided reminders to all gatehouse employees to the effect that KHTO wildlife monitors are allowed on the AWAR. Furthermore, to avoid similar situations from occurring in the future, a sign to this effect was posted at the gatehouse office.

Agnico Eagle reiterates the importance it places upon a fruitful collaboration with KHTO. As per Term and Condition 46, a Collaboration Agreement was signed between Agnico Eagle and the KHTO in December 2021. The objective of this collaboration agreement is to ensure wildlife and geographical information along the AWAR is collaboratively and effectively managed.

Within the context of this Collaboration Agreement, a Survey Coordinator will be employed by KHTO, with assistants if needed. The Survey Coordinator will be responsible for providing monthly detailed reports to AEM and to deliver data collected related to the Hunter Harvest Study.

Agnico Eagle and KHTO will participate in bi-weekly calls and collaborate on other services to the community such as cleaning up of camp sites around the community and assist hunters when needed along the AWAR, pending it is safe to do so.

The Collaboration agreement foresees daily presence on the AWAR during the migration and constant communication between the KHTO and Agnico Eagle's environment department. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will also be collected as part of this agreement, as well as other community information related to wildlife monitoring activities.

Prior to the 2022 Caribou Monitoring Season, a detailed meeting on the rules of the road will take place as per usual practice.

NIRB Recommendation 3

Community Engagement and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Incorporation - Context

Term and Condition 103 highlights the importance of community consultation and understanding of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to inform updates to monitoring and management plans and/or decisions which is a vital component of monitoring for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project. It is understood that Agnico Eagle works with the Kivalliq Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee, has ongoing collaboration with the KHTO, and plans to establish a community liaison committee.

Some of Agnico Eagle's management plans, including the Terrestrial Environment Management and Monitoring Plan, contain a section where it outlines what and how Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit was included into their formation, and information about how Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is used to inform yearly monitoring. However, the 2020 Annual Report does not clearly link how comments received from community members or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit led to management actions or updates in the monitoring year. Additionally, detail is required on the feedback mechanism for reporting monitoring results back to communities so the public can understand not only the results of the monitoring programs but also how their previous concerns and suggestions are addressed or considered.



Recommendation

The Board recommends that more detail be provided in the Proponent's 2021 annual report and future reports where results from engagement opportunities are considered in the monitoring year. Further, in future updates of monitoring and management plans, the Proponent shall include how community concerns and Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit received was considered, and how results of monitoring were communicated back to the communities.

Agnico Eagle Answer

Agnico Eagle thanks the NIRB for their recommendation and wishes to clarify that Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ) guided the elaboration of Meliadine's management plans and is a key component of its operations and decisions.

Agnico Eagle employs an IQ and Wildlife Advisor who leads various activities with the local community (elders groups, cabin owners groups, stakeholder site visits, tent visit with elders, etc.) and ensures IQ is appropriately accounted for in the Mine's endeavors.

Agnico Eagle has developed and implemented innovative ways of listening to IQ, such as the virtual meeting rooms to better understand and account for the local community's thoughts on the Meliadine Expansion Project.

As per the NIRB's Recommendation 3, Agnico Eagle will provide additional information on IQ incorporation in its activities and decisions in the 2021 Annual Report.

NIRB Recommendation 4

Terrestrial Environment Management and Monitoring Plan - Context

Within its 2019-2020 Monitoring Report the NIRB recommended that Agnico Eagle complete a comprehensive update to the Terrestrial Environment Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (TEMMP), to which Agnico Eagle noted that an updated version would be provided in the 2021 Annual Report. This recommendation was for improved data collection, analysis, reporting and discussion for parties to be able to sufficiently assess impacts and relate monitoring results to management actions. Previous comments and suggestions to update the TEMMP from the NIRB, and other parties are summarized in Section 2.3 of the 2020-2021 NIRB's Monitoring Report, in the 2018-2019 Monitoring Report and the 2019-2020 Monitoring Report and include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Increased detail in caribou behaviour monitoring study design, data collection, consideration of variables and data analysis;
- Improved analysis of caribou movement and determination of deflection from mine operations;
- Trend analysis to detect potential mine-related changes in wildlife;
- Mitigation measures and monitoring design pertaining to migratory birds;



- More detail on how individual monitoring programs (e.g., wildlife track survey) fit into the greater terrestrial environment monitoring or management actions;
- Clear delineation of thresholds when management actions are implemented;
- Update in background data where appropriate; and
- Improvements to the Hunter Harvest Survey and understanding of how this survey and/or other monitoring programs will function to monitor any changes to hunting pressures from the development of the AWAR.

Many of the concerns expressed by parties this year and in previous monitoring years were topics highlighted throughout the reconsideration process for the “Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment” Project Proposal. As part of this process a Terrestrial Advisory Group was committed to as a method to collaborate with interested parties to improve the terrestrial environment monitoring program. However, at the time of the submission of the 2020 Annual Report and response to parties’ comments on the report, the NIRB’s assessment of the Waterlines Proposal was still ongoing, and the Terrestrial Advisory Group had not yet been formed and is therefore not available to address these concerns. Agnico Eagle is reminded that it is still expected to find methods to engage with parties in the current situation in order to ensure all parties can understand and sufficiently access impacts to the terrestrial environment to provide feedback for revisions of the TEMMP.

Recommendation

As Agnico Eagle proposed to submit an updated version of the Terrestrial Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (TEMMP) within the 2021 Annual Report, the Board recommends that Agnico Eagle collaborate with interested parties to ensure sufficient detail in background data, study design, data collection, data analysis, reporting, discussions, and management triggers and thresholds are discussed. The updated TEMMP will clearly demonstrate all comments and recommendations from parties as summarized.

Agnico Eagle Answer

Agnico Eagle reiterates its commitment to collaborating with interested parties. Agnico Eagle wishes to propose a phased approach to the TEMMP revision; a revised TEMMP report would be submitted within the 2021 Annual Report, and a more substantial revision would take place once the Meliadine Terrestrial Advisory Group is implemented, allowing for more in depth discussions with interested parties.

Agnico Eagle is confident this approach will address NIRB’s concern to integrate all comments and recommendations from parties into a comprehensive updated version of the TEMMP.



NIRB Monitoring Report Comments/Recommendations

NIRB's review of the 2020 Annual Report

Context

The NIRB has reviewed Agnico Eagle's 2020 Meliadine Gold Mine Annual Report and provides the following comments.

In the 2020 Annual Report, Agnico Eagle provided a summary of the activities at site as well as mitigation measures implemented for Project effects on valued ecosystemic components (VECs) and valued socio-economic components (VSECs), and monitoring results. The NIRB appreciates that the Proponent improved upon providing comparisons of residual Project effects with predictions in the original FEIS and FEIS Addendum for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project. However, there does continue to be components of the Annual Report that lack information.

Recommendation(s)

As seen in comments by parties as well as reviewed by the NIRB, the Proponent shall work to improve the quality of its Annual Report through the following:

- Provide year-over-year comparisons for measured mine components, preferably in tabular or graphical format, such as reportable and non-reportable spills, greenhouse gas emissions, and water reporting to water retaining structures;
- Develop a table in the Annual Report for management plan updates, that contains a completed list of all the management plans for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project as well as the version and revision date. Agnico Eagle should also work with the NIRB's monitoring officers to ensure that the most up to date copy is posted to the NIRB's Public Registry so it is available to the public without having to go into the Annual Report (also see Section 6.0);
- Include parties' previous comments and an update on how they were addressed within the Annual Report, with what section or management plan implemented the updates;
- Include discussion of consideration of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and community concerns (also see Section 6.0); and
- Provide further discussion where monitoring results do not meet FEIS predictions (i.e., traffic levels).

Agnico Eagle Answer

Agnico Eagle thanks the NIRB for their recommendation and as per November 23rd, 2021 conference call will work on improving the above-mentioned points in the 2021 Annual Report.



Wildlife Deterrence

Comment

Term and Condition 75 requires the Proponent to implement mitigation measures and monitoring programs to limit the attraction of predators and scavengers to Project facilities. The Board recommendations for the 2018-2019 Annual Monitoring Report for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project recommended conducting a Bear and Wildlife Safety Audit in order to identify potential hazards and/or attractions to wildlife due to 22 fox mortalities in the 2018 year and requested revision of the Waste Management Plan to be provided with the 2019 Annual Report. It is noted that there were no fox mortalities in 2020, however no trapping of Arctic fox was completed in this year.

The NIRB appreciates that waste management and training materials improved in the 2020-2021 monitoring year, as demonstrated in the 2021 Site Update Report. It is also acknowledged that the Bear and Wildlife Safety Audit was postponed due to COVID-19, and in Agnico Eagle's response to 2019-2020 Board recommendations, it was noted that this audit would be rescheduled to spring/summer 2021.

Recommendation(s)

The Monitoring Officers recommend that the Wildlife and Safety Audit occur within the next monitoring year if Public Health restrictions permit, and that the results of this audit lead to updates on wildlife deterrence and adaptive management triggers in appropriate management and monitoring plans.

Agnico Eagle Answer

Agnico Eagle will schedule a Wildlife and Safety Audit in 2022, pending COVID-19 measures and restrictions allow for it. Appropriate plans and reports will be updated according to the Audit results as per usual practice.

Dust Monitoring

Context

In its 2019-2020 Monitoring Report, the NIRB recommended that the Proponent supplement dust collection data with traffic from sample days (mine related and public), weather, and time since the last dust suppressant activities in the 2020 and subsequent annual report. The NIRB appreciates improved discussion on dust suppression compared to collection of dust monitoring data. From the dustfall transect data in the Air Quality Monitoring Report it appears that dust suppressant along the AWAR reduced the dust levels, although no statistical analysis is able to be performed with only two (2) years of dust transect data. With the data from dust monitoring in 2021, Agnico Eagle will have three (3) years of data at transects to allow for greater discussion of trends and whether increased dust suppressant at certain locations or certain times may aid in reducing dustfall.



Recommendation(s)

Within the next annual report Agnico Eagle shall provide a description of how annual AWAR dust monitoring stations relate to AWAR transect stations for ease of reader consideration (i.e., is one (1) sample unit of the transect used or is it a separate collection unit in the location).

Within the next annual report include more discussion on whether there are trends on locations or timing of increased dustfall and whether additional dust suppressant application should be considered.

Agnico Eagle Answer

Agnico Eagle thanks the NIRB for their recommendation and will account for it in the 2021 Annual Report.

Post Environmental Assessment Monitoring Program – Appendix A

Context

In the 2020-2021 monitoring year the Meliadine Gold Mine Project Certificate was under reconsideration for the “Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment” Project Proposal so the NIRB was unable to complete the issuance of the Post Environmental Assessment Monitoring Program as was recommended by the NIRB’s Monitoring Officers in 2019.

The Monitoring Officers will continue to work with Agnico Eagle, government departments, and Regulatory Authorities regarding the monitoring program established pursuant to Article 12, Section 12.7 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s 135 of *NuPPAA*.

Comment

The NIRB will work with Agnico Eagle and parties in the 2021-2022 monitoring year to develop the Post Environmental Assessment Monitoring Program to provide guidance and allow coordination for all participants in the monitoring of the Meliadine Gold Mine Project.

Agnico Eagle Answer

Agnico Eagle looks forward to working with NIRB and parties to develop the Post Environmental Assessment Monitoring Program.



Active Management and Monitoring Plan Tracking

Context

As compliance with many Project Certificate Terms and Conditions require compliance with active management and monitoring plans, it is imperative that parties can efficiently access each plan. The Meliadine Gold Mine Project has required multiple amendments to its Project Certificate (NIRB Project Certificate 006) and Type "A" Water Licence (NWB File No.: 2AM-MEL1631) as the Project progresses and there may be multiple versions of plans available at the same time. To ensure that it is clear which management plan versions are the working copy for each year, the annual report should contain a table with the active management plan, version number, and date published.

In addition, updated management plans should be submitted and uploaded individually, not in one (1) large file or as appendices to other management plans to ensure that parties are able to efficiently find and navigate each plan. As management plans are updated, the NIRB emphasizes that these plans be submitted to the NIRB Public Registry once finalized and are active; these do not have to await submission of the annual report. The NIRB is working to update the Public Registry to make it more accessible to parties and members of the public; however, population of the plans is the responsibility of the Proponent.

Recommendation(s)

- The Proponent shall maintain a table of management plans that were active for the monitoring year in each annual report. The NIRB has completed Table 1 with management and monitoring plans from 2020 and 2021 as an example of how this information could be included in the annual report; and
- Project Certificate 006 states "The Proponent shall establish a Project-specific web portal or web page as a means of making all non-confidential monitoring and reporting information associated with the Project available to the general public." The NIRB requests that Agnico Eagle have a means of housing house active management plans (e.g., on the existing website for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project or a specific document portal like Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation has done for the Mary River Project).

Agnico Eagle Answer

Agnico Eagle thanks the NIRB for their recommendation and as discussed during the November 23rd, 2021 teleconference, a table of management plans active for the monitoring year will be maintained in the annual report.

As per management plans and non-confidential monitoring and reporting information associated with the project, Agnico Eagle will work on consolidating the information available through its existing project specific web portal as well as external stakeholder website (for example NIRB and NWB websites). Agnico Eagle will work on a proposition and follow-up with NIRB on that matter.



Cumulative Effects of Shipping

Context

Term and Condition 68 stipulates that “The Proponent shall demonstrate consideration for the potential cumulative effects of other development projects and shipping activities (including community resupply) when assessing their cumulative effects on marine birds in the Hudson Strait, in its annual report.” In providing details towards compliance to this Term and Condition, in its 2019-2020 Monitoring Report, the NIRB noted that there was no cumulative effects analysis which was to be completed in 2019 (after three (3) years of operations). In its 2020 Annual Report, Agnico Eagle highlighted that a joint Marine Mammal and Seabird Observer Report was completed for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project, the Meadowbank Gold Mine, and Whale Tail Pit Projects shipping activities which will aid in cumulative effects monitoring. However, there was no additional discussion surrounding cumulative effects of shipping between these Projects or taking into consideration other shipping activities, such as community resupply.

Recommendation(s)

Within future annual reports the Proponent should provide specific discussion of cumulative effects from Project-related shipping activities.

Agnico Eagle Answer

Agnico Eagle thanks the NIRB for their recommendation and will account for it in the 2021 Annual Report.

No-Shooting Zone

Context

During the Final Hearing for the original Meliadine Gold Mine Project, the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization (KHTO) expressed concern regarding the AWAR affecting caribou harvesting and increasing the administration efforts of the KHTO. During the Final Hearing the KHTO representatives stated that since the road was built there were more caribou killed and that the all-weather access road could be a danger to the public due to use of guns during caribou migrations.

Agnico Eagle proposed a 500-metre buffer around applicable Project infrastructure where no shooting would be permitted, and the Board understood that this was providing safety for employees and public using the AWAR, and that this no-shooting zone was discussed with the Government of Nunavut, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, and the KHTO. However, the Board was not clear on what specific measures or policing the Proponent intended to employ to prevent members of the public from actively harvesting and discharging firearms within any safety buffer created. Therefore, the NIRB included direction to the Proponent in Terms and Conditions 48 and 125, both of which were brought into full effect through the Board’s decision for the 2018 “Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment” Project Proposal.



In Agnico Eagle's 2020 Caribou Behaviour Study, it is stated that the southern portion of the AWAR was not monitored as frequently due to safety concerns near active harvesting activities. It has also come to the NIRB's attention through the recent assessment of the Waterlines Proposal, that parties were unaware of the no-shooting buffer or zone along the AWAR.

Recommendation(s)

Within 60 days the Proponent should provide a discussion on what measures are taken to inform community members of the rules of the road, including the no-shooting zone.

Agnico Eagle Answer

Agnico Eagle will hold meetings with community members to go over the rules of the road, including the no-shooting zone prior to the 2022 caribou migration period.