



NIRB File No.: 11MN034
NWB File No.: 2AM-MEL1631
NPC File No.: 149743

January 25, 2023

To: Mr. Earl Evans
Chairperson
Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board
c/o Lynne Bereza, BQCMB Communications Specialist

Sent via email: info@arctic-caribou.com; lbereza@arctic-caribou.com

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Nunavut Impact Review Board's Impact Assessment for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's "Meliadine Extension" Project Proposal

Dear Mr. Evans,

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) is sending this update to you and the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB) to invite your organization to consider participating in the NIRB's assessment of Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's (Agnico Eagle) "Meliadine Extension" Project Proposal (the Meliadine Extension Proposal or Proposal). During the Board's Technical Meeting (TM), Community Roundtable (CRT) and Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) for the file (November 2022), the community of Rankin Inlet, other Kivalliq communities, and Dene groups who rely on the Qamanirjuaq herd, raised a number of issues related to the Proposal and potential impacts to caribou that migrate through the Meliadine Project area near Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. As a result, several participants recommended that the NIRB engage with the BQCMB directly to invite your participation in the next steps of the ongoing assessment of the Meliadine Extension Proposal. Both the parties and the NIRB would greatly appreciate the BQCMB sharing your expertise to help inform relevant discussion on potential impacts and mitigation measures appropriate to manage impacts on caribou and their habitat.

The Meliadine Extension Proposal, proposes significant changes to the operation of the previously approved Meliadine Gold Mine Project. As set out in the Board's Notice of Reconsideration issued on June 22, 2022 after reviewing the Proposal, the Board initiated a formal reconsideration of the terms and conditions of Project Certificate No. 006 having determined that the Proposal constituted a significant modification to the approved Project as previously assessed. Following an initial technical review period, the Board conducted an in-person TM, CRT and PHC in relation to the Proposal in Rankin Inlet on November 23-25, 2022 in accordance with the mandate and objectives

of the Board established under Article 12 of the Nunavut Agreement¹ and Part 3 of the NuPPAA² to assess the potential ecosystemic and socio-economic effects of the Proposal. These meetings also provided Intervenors, members of the public, and community representatives an opportunity to discuss outstanding concerns, and to advise the Board as to whether the assessment of the Proposal was sufficient to proceed to the Public Hearing step in the NIRB's process.

In the Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Report issued by the NIRB on December 22, 2022³, the Board acknowledged that there remain significant issues that must be addressed before parties can complete their technical review of the proposed activities. As a result, the Board determined that it is premature to schedule a Public Hearing for the Proposal and provided an opportunity for Agnico Eagle to submit additional information required by parties, followed by time for parties to review the additional information, then revisit with parties if the assessment can continue to a Public Hearing. In the Pre-Hearing Conference discussions, the Government of Nunavut requested the Board to extend an invitation to the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board to participate in the ongoing assessment process due to the high potential for interaction between some elements of the Proposal and the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds. As such, the Board is extending this invitation to the BQCMB to participate in the NIRB's impact assessment process, specifically with respect to their expertise in the management of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds and the potential for impacts associated with the Proposal. The proposed upcoming steps in the process are:

- Agnico Eagle to file all supplemental information the Proponent has committed to provide to parties, with the Board by **January 31, 2023**;
- Parties and interested members of the public to provide their comments in respect of the supplemental information provided by **February 28, 2023**; and
- In the week of **March 13-17, 2023**, the Board will host a half-day Pre-Hearing Conference (conducted via teleconference) to review technical issues and discuss next steps, including a Public Hearing for the file.

THE MELIADINE EXTENSION PROJECT PROPOSAL

The Meliadine Project is a Gold Mine located approximately 25 kilometres (km) Northeast of Rankin Inlet. The proposed Meliadine Extension Proposal includes expanding operations in the footprint of the Meliadine site, to access additional deposits using both previously approved and new infrastructure. The associated infrastructure for the increase in activities includes the option to store waste rock and tailings in exhausted pits. The camp and existing mine site infrastructure, all-weather access road (AWAR), laydown area and fuel farm at Itivia Harbour would continue to be used. Use of the previously approved waterlines and ocean discharge pipeline to manage site water, would also be ongoing, with the addition of a new waterline from the Discovery deposit to the mine site along the Spur Road and AWAR. The Proposal also includes the construction and operation of wind turbines and the option to construct and operate an airstrip. Agnico Eagle has noted that the Proposal would extend the mine life by 11 years to 2043.

¹ *Nunavut Agreement: Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada*

² *NuPPAA: Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2.

³ NIRB Document ID No.: 342499 and the report will be emailed to BQCMB under separate cover

The full scope of activities described within the Meliadine Extension Proposal includes the following undertakings, works or activities⁴:

- Addition of underground mining at the Pump, F Zone, and Discovery deposits, which were previously approved for open-pit mining;
- Development of a new portal and associated infrastructure, including two (2) access roads to the Tiriganiaq-Wolf deposit;
- Construction and operation of a windfarm with 11 wind turbines, associated infrastructure, and an access road;
- Option to construct and operate an airstrip and associated infrastructure;
- Use of additional borrow pits and quarries to replace depleted sources and build a road to the windfarm, Tiriganiaq-Wolf portal, airstrip, road to Discovery and other deposits;
- Extension of the operation phase (i.e., mine life) by 11 years to 2043;
- Increase in employment to 905 employees;
- Ore Management:
 - Additional temporary ore stockpiles adjacent to Pump, F Zone, Tiriganiaq-Wolf, and Discovery;
- Water Management Infrastructure:
 - Continued use of the previously approved waterlines, marine pipeline and diffuser for discharge of saline effluent (salty groundwater) and surface contact water to Melvin Bay;
 - Construction and operation of a waterline running from the Discovery deposit to the mine site along the Discovery Spur Road and AWAR for treatment of saline effluent before discharge to Melvin Bay through the existing waterlines;
 - Addition of saline ponds at F Zone, Tiriganiaq-Wolf, Pump, and Discovery to collect water originating from underground mine activities;
 - Water management structures (i.e., dykes, berms, etc.) to be built as needed;
 - Ongoing use of existing freshwater sources and water intake, potable water treatment system;
 - Continued use of water management infrastructure (e.g., saline and contact water collection ponds, channels, dikes, berms, jetties, pump systems and pipelines, and culverts), and contact and saline treatment systems;
 - Increase in capacity of sewage treatment plant;
 - Option for storage of saline discharge in exhausted pits;
- Waste Management:
 - Expansion of existing waste rock storage facilities (WRSF), addition of new WRSFs, and continued use of existing WRSFs;
 - Addition of temporary salt waste rock piles for underground waste rock;
 - Option for waste rock storage in open pits;
 - Use of the dry stack Tailings Storage Facility within the existing approved footprint;
 - Option for in-pit slurry tailings deposition in exhausted pits;
 - Additional landfill to be built within the Discovery WRSF;

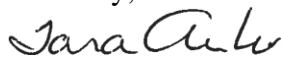
⁴ The scope of activities as outlined may be modified as a result of identified concerns, outstanding issues, and ongoing discussions between the Proponent and Parties identified throughout the Technical Meeting and Pre-hearing Conference held on November 23-25, 2022. Any changes that Agnico Eagle has made to the scope, will be reflected in their supplemental filing to the Board on January 31, 2023.

- Addition of landfarms at the Wesmeg and Discovery deposits;
- Inclusion of a composter and second incinerator;
- Ongoing use of existing landfills, landfarms, and incinerator;
- Fuel and hazardous material:
 - Installation of fuel storage tanks and containment facilities at Pump, F Zone, Tiriganiaq-Wolf, and Discovery. Each site will consist of four 75,000 litres (L) and one 50,000 L tanks for a total of 350,000 L per site;
 - Addition of a 6,000,000 L fuel storage tank and secondary containment at the existing main site;
 - Option to install two (2) 50,000 L aviation fuel storage tanks adjacent to the potential airstrip;
 - Ongoing use of approved hazardous waste material;
- Infrastructure at Meliadine Mine Site:
 - Addition of three (3) wings at the camp to accommodate increased personnel;
 - Ongoing use of existing infrastructure at the Meliadine Mine Site as previously approved: power plant, mill, camp, helipad, maintenance shop, laydown areas, Meliadine tank farm, emulsion plant, quarries and borrow pits, AWAR, Bypass Road, Discovery Spur Road, access roads, and mining at approved deposits;
- Infrastructure at Itivia Harbour:
 - Ongoing use of existing infrastructure as previously approved including: laydown areas, tank farm.

CONCLUSION

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the Board, its assessment of the “Meliadine Extension” Project Proposal or how you can participate, please contact the undersigned directly at (867) 983-4611 or via email at tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Tina Giroux-Robillard, Executive Director, BQCMB
Meliadine Distribution List
Jennifer Range, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Stephanie Autut, Nunavut Water Board
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Bert Dean, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Agnes Simonfalvy, Government of Nunavut
Natalie D’Souza, Northern Projects Management Office
Kaitlyn Bakker, Northern Projects Management Office
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Adrian Paradis, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Natalie D’Souza, Northern Projects Management Office

Victoria Shore, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Alasdair Beattie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Julie Anderson, Health Canada
Adam Downing, Transport Canada
Vikash Narine, Natural Resources Canada
Geoff Bussidor, Sayisi Dene First Nation
Benji Denechezhe, Northlands Denesuline First Nation