



# AGNICO EAGLE

January 31, 2023

Nunavut Impact Review Board  
Karen Costello, Executive Director  
Cambridge Bay, NU

## **Re: Agnico Eagle Response to Next Steps Outlined in the Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Report and Update to Meliadine Extension Proposal Commitment List**

Dear Ms. Costello,

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle) is writing to provide its response to the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB) direction outlined in Section 8.3 of the Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Report for the Meliadine Extension Proposal (Decision Report<sup>1</sup>). Specifically, this letter is organized to address two components 1) Supplemental information provided and commitment status; and 2) Confirmation of Meliadine Extension Proposal activities. These actions are included herein as outlined for the next steps for the Proponent (bullet two of Section 8.3) of the Decision Report:

- *“On or before 2:00 pm MST, on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 Agnico Eagle files with the Board all supplemental information the Proponent has committed to provide to parties before the Public Hearing, confirmation of the scope of the Extension Proposal (including confirmation of preferred alternatives that should be included in the scope) and (if applicable) files an updated Commitments List to reflect the resolution of outstanding technical issues since the filing of Agnico Eagle’s December 1, 2022 draft;”*

### **1. Supplemental Information and Updated Commitment List**

Since the Technical Meeting of November 23-24, 2022, Agnico Eagle has been actively working to fulfil commitments and/or working with Parties to come to an understanding of next steps to resolve issues. Supplemental information to support the Meliadine Extension Proposal has been provided to Parties and the NIRB as early as December 9, 2022 and continued throughout December and January 2023.

Agnico Eagle appreciates the participation and engagement from Parties on the Commitments to come to an understanding to support the technical review of the Meliadine Extension Proposal. Overall, Agnico Eagle feels with the progress made over the past months since the Technical Meeting, Parties have been provided with sufficient information to complete their technical review.

The enclosed Commitment List provides a detailed update on all Commitments, their status of completion, submission dates, and an update of the resolution status of the technical comments related to Commitments.

<sup>1</sup> NIRB (Nunavut Impact Review Board). 2022. Pre-hearing Conference Decision Report for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Meliadine Extension Proposal, Related to the Meliadine Gold Mine Project. NIRB File No. 11MN034. December 22, 2022.

Agnico Eagle appreciates the notice received from the NIRB on January 20, 2023 confirming the schedule for community information sessions in the Dene communities as requested by the GKD during the Technical Meeting. Agnico Eagle reiterates that they will attend the community information sessions to be facilitated by the NIRB on February 8 and 9, 2023. At the time of this letter, the logistics for the community meetings are being finalized with the GKD.

## **2. Confirmation of Meliadine Extension Activities**

Prior to the NIRB issuing the Decision Report, Agnico Eagle submitted a letter to the NIRB on December 15, 2022<sup>2</sup>, providing written confirmation of alternatives to be included in the scope of the assessment. The following sections reiterate the communications previously conveyed to the NIRB.

### **2.1 On-site Airstrip**

As set out in Agnico Eagle's December 15, 2022 letter to the NIRB, Agnico Eagle confirms that it will not proceed with the airstrip component of the Meliadine Extension Proposal. This means that should the Meliadine Extension Proposal proceed, there will be no changes with respect to air transportation relating to the project, and that the current use of the airport in Rankin Inlet will continue.

In addition, Agnico Eagle also noted within the December 15, 2022 letter that a new commitment (Commitment 48) was added to reflect this change. Subsequently, the removal of the on-site airstrip from the Meliadine Extension Proposal also triggered removal of Commitments 8, 14, 32, and 47, and Agnico Eagle anticipates that this new commitment will resolve technical comments respecting the airstrip that were raised by intervenors.

### **2.2 In-pit Deposition**

As set out in Agnico Eagle's December 15, 2022 letter to the NIRB, Agnico Eagle had confirmed a path forward with CIRNAC, NRCAN, and ECCC (Commitment 41) that defined the methodology to assess in-pit deposition. On December 16, 2022, Agnico Eagle submitted an environmental assessment for in-pit deposition to CIRNAC, NRCAN, ECCC, KivIA, and the NIRB (Commitment 42) to advance the technical review of in-pit deposition.

Agnico Eagle continues to engage with CIRNAC, NRCAN, ECCC, and KivIA to work towards achieving resolution for in-pit deposition. A one-day workshop is planned with Parties on February 6, 2023 to resolve remaining technical comments and ensure a comprehensive understanding on in-pit deposition.

Agnico Eagle confirms that in-pit deposition is still an alternative to be included in the scope of the Meliadine Extension assessment.

### **2.3 Windfarm Shutdown during Caribou Migration Period**

As set out in Agnico Eagle's December 15, 2022 letter to the NIRB, Agnico Eagle will add shut down of the wind turbines during caribou migration to the list of activities included in the work suspension protocol described in the Terrestrial Environment Management and Monitoring Plan (TEMMP).

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<sup>2</sup> Agnico Eagle (Agnico Eagle Mines Limited). 2022. Re: Update to Meliadine Extension Proposal Commitment List and Agnico Eagle Response to Submissions filed December 8, 2022. Submitted to Nunavut Impact Review Board. December 15, 2022.

In addition to adding new Commitment No. 49 to the Commitment List, Agnico Eagle anticipates that this new commitment will also resolve the following technical comments respecting the windfarm: GN-10, KivIA-01 through KivIA-03, and SDFN-01 and 03.

### **3. Closure**

Agnico Eagle believes the current record supports the view there is sufficient resolution on technical issues; therefore, during the half-day Pre-Hearing Conference scheduled the week of March 13, 2023 the NIRB should be able to proceed with issuance of a public hearing notice on the Meliadine Extension Proposal. Agnico Eagle is looking for confirmation on the timing of the Pre-Hearing Conference. Our preference would be March 16.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and the enclosed materials. Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Jamie Quesnel  
Director, Permitting & Regulatory Affairs  
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited