



NIRB File No.: 05MN047 & 12MN001

NWB File No.: 2AM-DOH1335

NPC File No.: 149997

May 10, 2023

To: Manon Turmel
Superintendent – Permitting
and Regulatory Affairs
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
93, Rue Arseneault, suite 202
Val d'Or, QC, J9P 0E9

Nancy Duquet Harvey
Environmental Superintendent
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
93, Rue Arseneault, suite 202
Val d'Or, QC, J9P 0E9

Sent via email: manon.turmel@agnicoeagle.com and nancy.harvey@agnicoeagle.com

Re: Acknowledgement Regarding Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Composter Modification at the Hope Bay Project

Dear Manon Turmel and Nancy Duquet Harvey:

On March 7, 2023 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received correspondence from the Nunavut Planning Commission (the Commission) regarding Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's (Agnico Eagle) application for the "Inclusion of Composter at Hope Bay", a modification to the Hope Bay Project (the Composter Modification). Based on the information received by the Commission, they indicated that the Composter Modification represented a significant modification to the previously assessed Hope Bay Project (NIRB File Nos.: 05MN047; 12MN001) because a composter in Quarry 2 was not specifically assessed previously by the NIRB. Therefore, the Commission referred the Composter Modification to the NIRB for further assessment.

After reviewing the application provided to the Commission on February 8, 2023¹, NIRB has determined that the scope of the Composter Modification is as follows:

- Installation of a composter at Quarry 2 and diversion of organic waste to the composter,
- The use of composted material from the composter for on-site remediation if the compost meets the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) criteria, or disposal offsite or in the approved onsite landfill if the compost does not meet CCME criteria.

¹ Public Registry ID: 344874

To determine whether the Composter Modification is outside the scope of the Board's previous assessment of the Hope Bay Project and warrants additional assessment by the NIRB, the Board acknowledges that composting reduces the volume of waste that is incinerated at site, and reduces the amount of fuel consumed to manage wastes at the site. The NIRB also notes that a new Composter Management Plan that reflects the proposed Composter Modification was submitted to NIRB on October 11, 2022.

In addition, as waste management at site is regulated by the Nunavut Water Board under the terms and conditions of existing Type "A" Water Licence No. 2AM-DOH1335, the NIRB sought clarification from the Nunavut Water Board regarding whether the activity under the Composter Modification would be classified as requiring an amendment to the Water Licence or whether the activity would be considered to be a modification to the waste management at site, as approved under the existing Water Licence. The Nunavut Water Board verified that the proposed composting activity fits within the definition of "modification" under the existing Water Licence No. 2AM-DOH1335 and would not trigger an amendment.

The NIRB also considered the significance criteria set out in the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*) s.90(a)-(j), to determine that the Composter Modification would not:

- involve the additional use of chemicals or hazardous materials;
- generate additional waste;
- change impacts to wildlife or traditional land use; or
- impact water quality at site.

On this basis, the Board has concluded that the Composter Modification does not require an amendment to existing Water Licence No. 2AM-DOH1335 and does not meet the criteria for significance as set out in *NuPPAA* and therefore does not require further assessment by the NIRB. Reflecting these conclusions, the NIRB is referring the activity proposed in the Composter Modification to the Nunavut Water Board for their consideration under the Water Licence.

The NIRB expects ongoing monitoring and any additional updates to plans resulting from Agnico Eagle implementing the Composter Modification to be submitted as required under the existing terms and conditions of the NIRB Project Certificates No. 003 and No. 009, and looks forward to receiving any updated copies of project-specific plans or licenses. All updated management plans associated with the "Inclusion of Composter at Hope Bay" modification can be submitted directly to the NIRB's Public Registry dashboard www.nirb.ca/project/124148 and www.nirb.ca/project/123632.

Should you have any questions or require clarification regarding the NIRB's direction on the "Inclusion of Composter at Hope Bay" modification please contact Guillaume Daoust, Technical Advisor II at gdaoust@nirb.ca or Keith Morrison, Manager, Impact Assessment at (867) 983-4617 or kmorrison@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Doris North Distribution List
Hope Bay Phase 2 Distribution List
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board