



Nunavut Impact Review Board

Site Visit Report

Meadowbank Gold Mine &

Whale Tail Pit Projects

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

NIRB File Nos. 03MN107 & 16MN056



October
2023

Full Report Title: Nunavut Impact Review Board Community Update and Site Visit Report
Meadowbank Gold Mine and Whale Tail Pit Projects Agnico Eagle Mines
Limited NIRB File No. 03MN107 & 16MN056

Projects: Meadowbank Gold Mine and Whale Tail Pit Projects

Project Location: Kivalliq Region, Nunavut

Land Tenure: Inuit Owned Lands and Crown Lands

Project Owner: Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

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Site visit date: July 29-30, 2023

Last site visit: July 22-24, 2022

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Cover photo: 1) Whale Tail Pit

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) was established through Articles 10 and 12 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and is responsible for post environmental assessment monitoring of a Project in accordance with Part 7 of Article 12 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 135(4) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14 (*NuPPAA*).

1.1 Objective & Purpose of a Public Information Session

Pursuant to the *Nunavut Agreement*, the *NuPPAA*, the Meadowbank Project Certificate No. 004, and Whale Tail Pit Project Certificate No. 008, the NIRB provides periodic updates regarding its Monitoring Program for the communities most affected by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's (Agnico Eagle) Meadowbank Gold Mine Project (Meadowbank Project) and Whale Tail Pit Project (Whale Tail). These meetings ensure ongoing awareness of Project-specific Terms and Conditions and encourage effective participation throughout the Board's monitoring process for both files.

The Board held a Community Information Session to discuss updates to the Boards monitoring of the Meadowbank Gold Mine and Whale Tail Pit projects and to collect community comments, questions, and concerns to form an important part of the NIRB's monitoring program. A summary of the Community Information Session is provided in [Section 4.3](#).

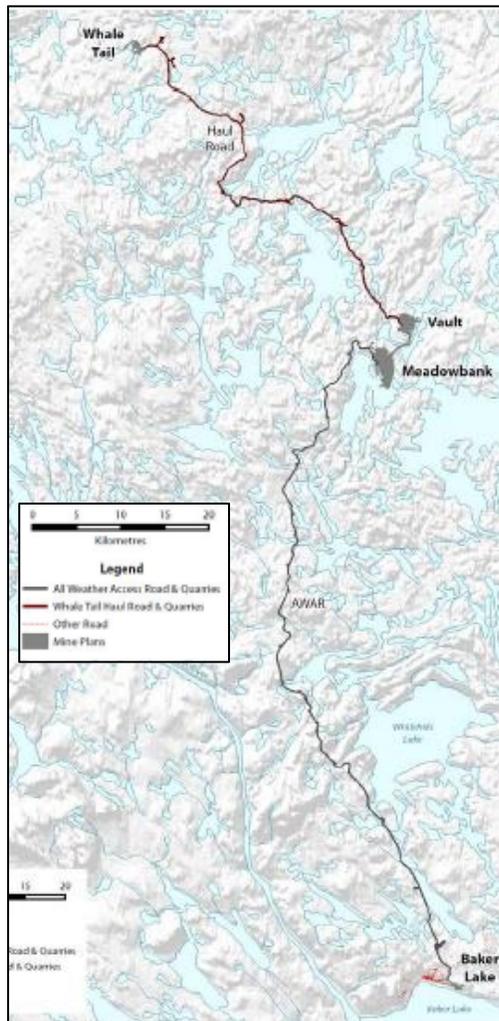
1.2 Objectives & Purpose of Site Visits

In accordance with the Terms and Conditions as set out in the amended Meadowbank Project Certificate¹ in accordance with the amended Whale Tail Pit Project Certificate² and in accordance with Section 12.7.2(b) of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 135(3)(b) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB is responsible for the establishment of a monitoring program for the Projects. This includes conducting periodic site visits where the NIRB determines whether, and to what extent, the land or resource use in question is being carried out within the predetermined terms and conditions of the NIRB's Project Certificates issued. A summary of observations made during the Meadowbank Site Visit is provided in [Section 5.2](#) and a summary of observations made during the Whale Tail Site Visit is provided in [Section 5.3](#).

¹ Public Registry Document No.: 321813

² Public Registry Document No.: 328586

2 MEADOWBANK PROJECT OVERVIEW



The Meadowbank Project involves the construction and operation of an open pit gold mine located in the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut, approximately 70 kilometres (km) north of the Hamlet of Baker Lake on Inuit-owned surface lands. Production at the Meadowbank mine site was expanded into 2019 with the extension of the mine plan to include Vault, Phaser, and Portage. Ore was exhausted and mining of all the pits was completed in 2019 with in-pit tailings deposition in Goose Pit starting the same year.

In addition to the mining infrastructure and activities, ancillary Project infrastructure is located approximately two (2) km east of the Hamlet of Baker Lake to receive supplies by ship annually. The facilities include barge unloading facilities, a laydown storage and marshalling area, a temporary laydown storage area for cyanide, a 60 million litre (ML) fuel tank farm with the fuel tank farm being expanded to 80 ML in 2019, associated interconnecting roads, and a 110 km AWAR from the Hamlet of Baker Lake to the Meadowbank mine site.

[Figure 1](#), [Figure 2](#), and [Figure 3](#) provide an overview of site locations, and a layout of the Meadowbank Mine Site, the Vault Pit Area, and the marshalling facility near Baker Lake.

Figure 1: Overview of site location (From Agnico Eagle's 2019 Annual Report; Figure 6).

For information regarding the original Meadowbank Project refer to www.nirb.ca/project/124588 and for information regarding current monitoring of the Project please go to www.nirb.ca/project/125253.



Figure 3: Overview of Vault Pit area (Agnico Eagle's 2022 Annual Report).

3 WHALE TAIL PIT PROJECT OVERVIEW

The original Whale Tail Pit Project (Whale Tail) included the development of an open pit gold mine located at the Amaruq property approximately 150 kilometres (km) north of the Hamlet of Baker Lake and approximately 50 km northwest of the Meadowbank Project. A map of the project layout and infrastructure is shown in [Figure 4](#). The Project includes the main camp, associated mining infrastructure, and two (2) open pits. Ore is hauled by truck via the 65 km Whale Tail Haul Road (WTHR or Haul Road) to the Meadowbank mine site for milling. Existing infrastructure at the Meadowbank mine site and the Baker Lake facility support Whale Tail and full commercial production was achieved in September 2019.

For further information on the original Whale Tail Project, please refer to the Project Dashboard on the NIRB’s Public Registry at www.nirb.ca/project/124683.

Whale Tail Modifications

Title (Years Active)	Project Dashboard	Modification
Whale Tail Pit – Expansion (2020 to Present)	www.nirb.ca/project/125418	2018-Extend extraction by 4 years for an additional 15.2 Mt of ore and additional infrastructure at site to support the expansion. 2021-IVR and Whale Tail Pushbacks to modify mining of the two (2) deposits. 2023 Modification – increase to IVR and Whale Tail Pit pushbacks and storage of saline water in IVR pit.

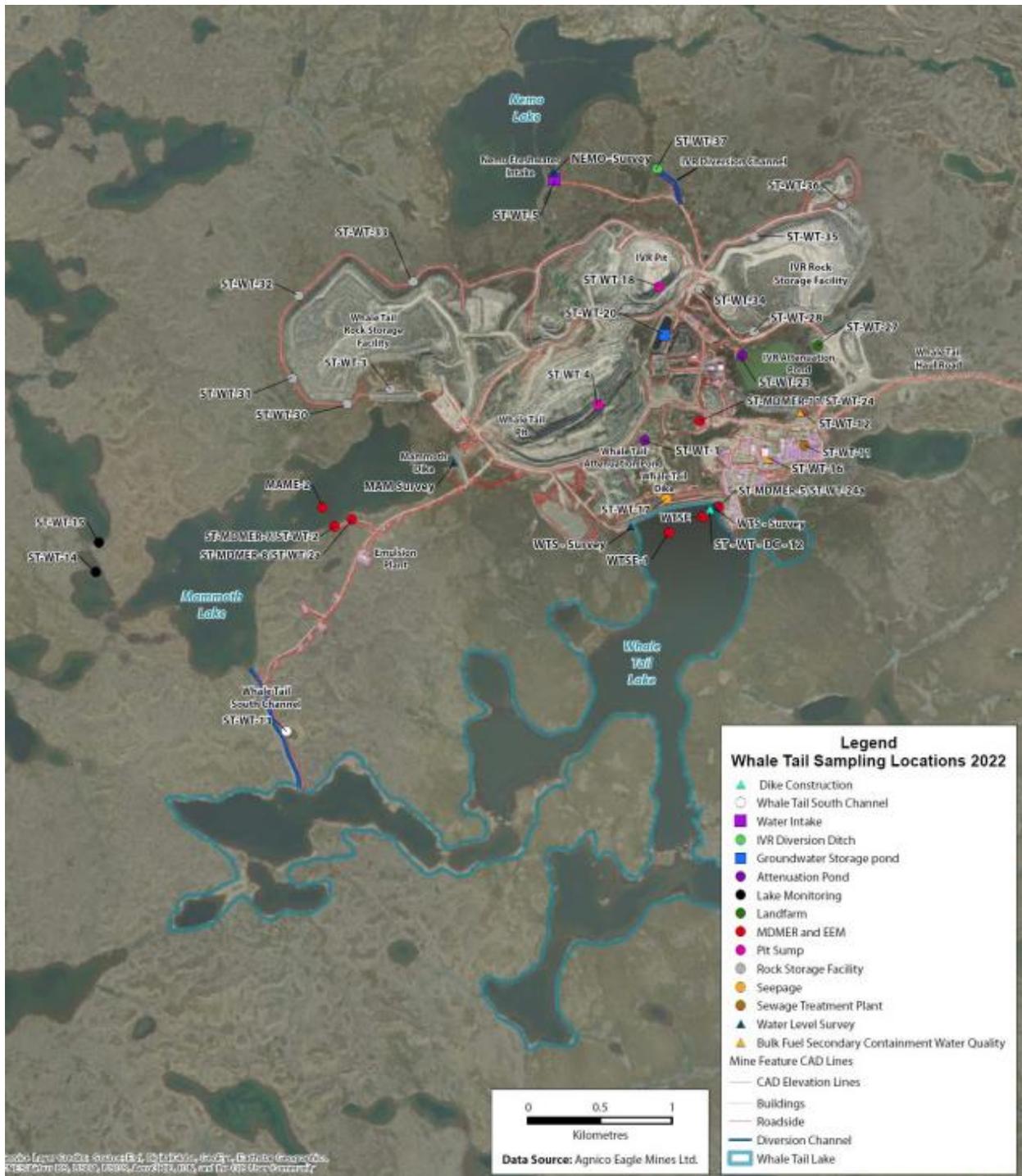


Figure 4: Overview of Whale Tail Pit Site (from Agnico Eagle's 2022 Annual Report).

4 PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

The NIRB hosted community information sessions in Baker Lake at the Nunamiut Lodge Conference Centre, which consisted of an afternoon open house from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and an evening session from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on July 31, 2023.

4.1 Advertisements

The NIRB advertised the meetings through radio, posters, and online through Facebook in Baker Lake both in English and Inuktitut in the month before the meeting.

4.2 Meeting Materials

At the public meeting, the following materials were provided by the NIRB:

Document	Public Registry ID No	
	03MN107	16MN056
The NIRB's PowerPoint presentation (in English and Inuktitut)	346530	346529
Comment Forms (in English and Inuktitut)	N/A	N/A
Contact Forms (in English and Inuktitut)	N/A	N/A

Copies of the above listed consultation materials can be obtained from the NIRB's online Public Registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125253 or www.nirb.ca/project/125418.

4.3 Summary of the Public Information Session

The NIRB's Monitoring information sessions were open to all members of the public with simultaneous Inuktitut interpretation by Alex Alooq. Refreshments including coffee, tea, and snacks were provided to attendees at both the afternoon and evening sessions. Attendees were asked to sign in and identify their community and/or the organization they represented. There were 6 people in attendance at the afternoon session and 20 people in attendance at the evening session. The afternoon session can be seen in Photo 1 and the evening session can be seen in below.



Photo 1: Baker Lake Afternoon Session



Photo 2: Baker Lake Evening Session

The Community Information Sessions consisted of a presentation given by NIRB staff followed by a discussion session with the attendees. An overview presentation was prepared of the NIRB’s monitoring program for Meadowbank and Whale Tail. The presentation included project histories, project components and key activities, as well as a summary of the Board Recommendations provided in the NIRB’s 2022 Meadowbank and Whale Tail Annual Report. The NIRB also provided an update on Agnico Eagle’s “Meliadine Extension” project proposal, a proposed amendment to the Meliadine Gold Mine Project (NIRB File No.: 11MN034) and noted that the NIRB would soon be looking for community representatives from Baker Lake for the upcoming hearing in September 2023. Discussions followed the presentation and community members were asked to share their thoughts, questions, and concerns about the monitoring program and the Projects in general. Participants were informed that their commentary would help to inform NIRB processes in the future.

Both written and verbal comments were accepted from meeting attendees on the Meadowbank and Whale Tail projects. Verbal comments were recorded by the NIRB and are summarized in [Table 1](#) below.

Table 1: Comments pertaining to the Meadowbank Gold Mine and Whale Tail Pit Projects

Topic	Comments/Questions
Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When is the mine closing?

Topic	Comments/Questions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How far along is the mine and how much longer will it be open? A lot of people from Baker Lake work at the mine. • Agnico Eagle needs to inform the community of their closure plans. The business community needs to know and be able to plan. • Where are the employees going to go? • The employment in Baker Lake is not only those working at Meadowbank mine but all the employees working for the contractors that serve the mine. • The Baker Lake economy is going to go back to arts and crafts, and tourism. • Although the older generation lived on the land, this newer generation grew up in a wage economy. • People in the community are unaware that the mine is closing soon.
Dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns regarding dust on road. • How bad is the dust from the road? People pick berries around the road area. • Is there dust monitoring? • Air quality should be considered as “satisfactory”.
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns with favoritism and nepotism occurring in the hiring of contracted companies. • Comment on employee losing job for unjust reasons. Who can the employees go to?
Caribou	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the NIRB noticed impacts to caribou? Have they gotten better or worse? • Can somebody provide a number of how many caribou are harvested in the Kivalliq each year? • The road has made it easier to harvest caribou.
Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is something that Agnico Eagle has failed at every year. • If they had used Traditional Knowledge then a lot of the social issues such as families being broken and people being fired for no reason, would not have occurred.
All Weather Access Road (AWAR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tractor trailers should slow down crossing the bridges, particularly at kilometer 49.

Topic	Comments/Questions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People use the road for hunting and fishing, if the mine shuts down can people still use the road? Is it going to still be there?
NIRB Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local business community employs many people to support the mine, but they are not represented at hearings (only KIA, Hamlet, and HTO). • How does the NIRB define what terms and conditions are “satisfactory” or “needs improvement”? How does Agnico Eagle go from being out of compliance to in-compliance? • Who determines whether Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit is in-compliance? • Does the NIRB have a socio-economic expert? • Why are there no elected officials or Hamlet/KIA representatives at NIRB meetings like this one?
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is happening at the mine site? • People used to camp and fish around the mine area and now they can’t anymore. • Community hasn’t felt benefits from KIA and NTI making money from the mine.

5 MINE SITE VISITS

5.1 Overview of the Meadowbank and Whale Tail Site Visits

The 2023 Site Visit to the Meadowbank and Whale Tail projects was conducted by NIRB Monitoring Officers Leah Klaassen and Emily Koide. NIRB staff viewed the components of the Meadowbank site on July 29, 2023, and the components of the Whale Tail site on July 30, 2023. The components viewed at each site are summarized in [Figure 4](#) for the Meadowbank site and [Figure 5](#) for the Whale Tail site.

NIRB staff were picked up at the Nunamiut Lodge Hotel and transported to the Baker Lake Facilities by Agnico Eagle staff Rowan Woodall on the morning of July 29, 2023. NIRB staff viewed the ancillary Project infrastructure including the Baker Lake bulk fuel storage facility and the marshalling area. Mr. Woodall then transported NIRB staff to the Meadowbank mine site, stopping at several areas along the all-weather access road (AWAR) to view items outlined in [Figure 4](#). Once at the Meadowbank Mine site, Eric Haley, Environmental General Supervisor (Agnico Eagle Staff) assisted in determining the observation plan for the rest of the site visit. During the tour, NIRB and Agnico Eagle staff discussed the Meadowbank Project in general and

specific items related to the Project Certificate. NIRB staff were provided overnight accommodations at the Meadowbank Camp.

<p><u>Baker Lake Marshalling Facility</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laydown area and marshalling facility; • Dock and barge area; • 24-hour security cameras and lighting; • Fuel tank farm area; • Application of dust suppressant. 	<p><u>All-weather Access Road Sites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gatehouse at kilometer 5; • Five (5) sections of the road receiving dust suppression; • Two (2) dust monitoring transects; • Bridges and associated spill response seacans; • Snowmobile crossing site; • Road flags fitted with noise suppression rubber tubing; • Quarry 22; • Active spill cleanup at kilometer 87.
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<p><u>Meadowbank Site</u></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water intake and discharge infrastructure; • Waste management infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hazardous materials storage area; ○ Composter; ○ Landfill; ○ Landfarm. • Onsite tank farm; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New fuel tank construction. • Groundwater wells; • Tailings storage facility (north and south cells); • Meadowbank Camp: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Country food kitchen; ○ Inuktitut signage; ○ Clinic; ○ Quality of life for Inuit (eg. Recreation areas etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vault; ○ Phaser; ○ BB Phaser; ○ Goose; ○ Portage A; ○ Portage E. • Operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waste Rocks Storage Facilities; ○ NAG storage Facility; ○ Processing Plant. • Water Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vault Attenuation Pond; ○ Phaser Attenuation Pond; ○ Stormwater Management Pond; ○ Diversion Channels, ditches, and dikes.

Figure 5: Meadowbank Site Visit tour components.

On the morning of July 30, 2023, NIRB staff were driven by Mr. Woodward and Mr. Haley from the Meadowbank Camp along the 65-kilometre (km) haul-road to the Whale Tail site (Whale Tail Haul Road or WTHR) at the Amaruq property, stopping along the way to make observations of the components listed in the first box in Figure 5. Once at the Whale Tail site, NIRB staff viewed the areas of importance listed in the second box of [Figure 5](#). During the tour, NIRB and Agnico Eagle staff discussed the Whale Tail Project in general and specific items related to the Project Certificate. NIRB staff were then returned to the Meadowbank Camp and provided overnight accommodations.

<u>Whale Tail Haul Road</u>	<u>Whale Tail Site</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife camera locations; • NO2 monitoring station (passive and active); • Three (3) dust monitoring transects; • Dust suppression application. • Bridges and associated spill response seacans; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Modification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current status of IVR/WT Pit pushbacks; ○ Proposed pushback increases; ○ Proposed water storage area in IVR pit. • Water Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Whale Tail Attenuation Pond; ○ IVR Attenuation Pond; ○ GW Storage Pond; ○ Diversion Channels, ditches, and dikes • Operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Whale Tail Pit; ○ IVR Pit; ○ Whale Tail Rock Storage Facility; [7] ○ IVR Rock Storage Facility; ○ Emulsion Plant • Waste Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Landfill; ○ Landfarm; ○ Hazardous materials storage area • CREMP locations at Mammoth and A20 Lakes • Whale Tail Camp: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inuktitut Signage ○ Country Food Kitchen ○ Clinic ○ Quality of life for Inuit (lounges areas, gyms, etc.)

Figure 6: Whale Tail Site Visit tour components.

On the morning of July 31, 2023, NIRB staff were met by Mr. Woodall at the Meadowbank Camp and escorted back to the Baker Lake Marshalling Facility to view the dust suppressant that was applied over the weekend as well as the barge dock area. NIRB staff were then returned to the Nunamiut Lodge.

5.2 Observations for Meadowbank Mine Site

Table 2: Observations made at the Meadowbank Mine Site Pertaining to Terms and Conditions of Interest.

T&C No.*	Topic	Site Observation
Water Quality and Waste Management		
8	Groundwater Monitoring	During the site visit all 5 wells in place were operational. Photo 41 shows one of the wells.
18	Tailings Management Strategy	Tailings were deposited into the South Cell of the tailings facility since 2016 and deposition slowed down in 2019. Between 2019-2021 tailings were disposed of in pit at Goose Pit (Photo 39) and Portage Pit E. After a brief disposal of tailings in the north cell (Photo 29), Agnico Eagle deposited again in Portage Pit E where tailings continued to be deposited (Photo 38).
19	Tailings cover	NIRB staff observed tailings reclamation activities such as the capping of the Goose Pit tailings in 35-40 meters of water as seen in Photo 39 .
21	Weather station	NIRB staff observed the operational weather station at the Meadowbank site (Photo 24).
Waste Management		
25	Managing attraction of carnivores and/or raptors to reduce or eliminate attraction at all landfills and waste storage areas	An operational wildlife/bird deterrent sound cannon was in use at the Meadowbank landfill as seen in Photo 33 . Agnico Eagle staff confirmed that the landfill is inspected weekly by environmental staff for signs of organic material or any items that may attract carnivores and/or raptors. Agnico Eagle staff did not note any issues with carnivores and/or raptors around the landfill. The landfill site can be seen in Photo 32 .
26	Site maintained clean of debris	NIRB staff observed that all areas were kept in a clean state. There was no evidence of wind-blown material viewed around the Meadowbank site or the ancillary facilities in Baker Lake. An active spill cleanup was observed at kilometer 87 of the AWAR. NIRB staff observed the excavated area as well as active pumping of contaminated water from the spill site (Photo 20 and Photo 21).
27	Fuel and hazardous materials storage	NIRB staff noted that fuel and hazardous materials associated with Agnico Eagle's Meadowbank project appear to be stored in a safe and environmentally protective manner (Photo 46) Some secondary containment berms surrounding the fuel storage area at the Baker Lake facilities showed signs of erosion resulting in exposed liners (Photo 8). Secondary containment berms at the onsite tank farm were observed to be intact (Photo 49). Agnico Eagle staff were aware of the areas in need of repairs and intend to re-cover the liners promptly.

T&C No.*	Topic	Site Observation
All-weather Private Access Road		
32	Amended all-weather access road	<p>a) One (1) 24-hour manned gate (Photo 10) was operational at kilometer 5 of the AWAR recording traffic including ATVs, while a second unmanned gate is located at the entrance of the Meadowbank Mine site (Photo 23).</p> <p>b) All traffic (including public traffic) is required to check-in (via radio or in person) with the employee at the gatehouse prior to proceeding along the road from either the mine site or from Baker Lake and the gatehouse keeper maintains a daily log and have public sign Agnico Eagle's <i>All Weather Private Access Road Safety Rules & Procedures for Road Access</i> policy prior to being granted access to the road. Members of the public checking in at the gatehouse are given high-visibility vests to wear for the duration of their trip along the road.</p> <p>c) Road signs were posted in both English and Inuktitut at the gatehouse, and at various points along the AWAR (Photo 9).</p> <p>d) Speed limit signs were observed at various points along the AWAR.</p>
Wildlife and Terrestrial		
54	TEMP	<p>Agnico Eagle staff expressed their intent to submit the updated Terrestrial Ecosystem Management Plan (TEMP) – version 8 to the NIRB before the end of the calendar year (2023).</p> <p>Based on the TEMP – version 7, Agnico Eagle followed protocol throughout the site visit. Several caribou were present onsite and on access roads (Photo 17). A wolf was also observed by Agnico Eagle staff and reported to other drivers and dispatch per the TEMP – version 7.</p>
56	Maps of caribou migration corridors	Caribou migration maps appeared to have been removed from their usual location onsite (Photo 26). Agnico Eagle staff noted this issue.
59	Deterrence of caribou at the Tailings Storage Facility	Wildlife deterrents were not in use at the north or south cells of the Tailings Storage Facility. Agnico Eagle staff noted that caribou have not been an issue in this area and therefore wildlife deterrent efforts have been focused elsewhere.
60	Stop Work Policy for Wildlife	Agnico Eagle stopped work and investigated reports of caribou sightings on several occasions while the NIRB was on site (Photo 51).
61	Air traffic logs	Agnico Eagle staff noted that they had recently switched helicopter contractors and were working to extract information on flight heights and define takeoff versus cruising altitudes in order to fulfill this term.
Noise		
62	Noise	Noise Monitoring equipment was operational and observed by NIRB staff onsite (Photo 22).
Socio-Economic		
66	Nursing Station	The NIRB observed the clinic at site and it is operational.

T&C No.*	Topic	Site Observation
Air Quality		
71	Atmospheric monitoring stations	Air monitoring stations have been in place at two (2) locations around the Meadowbank Mine Site since 2010 and programs are in place along the Whale Tail Haul Road and the Whale Tail site.
72	On-site Incinerators	As a result of exceedances found during stack testing in 2022, the incinerator has been removed from the Meadowbank site. A composting program was established in 2019 and was observed by NIRB staff during the site visit (Photo 47). Materials that would normally be incinerated are now redirected to the composter if possible or are otherwise shipped offsite for disposal.
74	Dust Suppressants	<p>The use of Calcium Chloride dust suppressant was observed on five (5) sections of the AWAR at kilometers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10-12 - 24-26 - 48-50 - 68-70 - 80-84 <p>As well as an additional section at kilometer 95. Photo 18 shows a section of the road that has received dust suppression treatment, while Photo 19 provides an example of the conditions that can be seen on the untreated areas of the road. In addition, roads on the Meadowbank site were observed to be receiving continuous watering.</p> <p>NIRB staff observed dust sampling stations placed along the AWAR at various distances from both the east and west sides the road in two (2) duplicate transects to monitor dust deposition distance from the road. Dust canisters are placed 25, 50, 100, 300, and 1000 metres away from the AWAR. Photo 13 and Photo 14 show dust monitoring equipment in place along the road.</p>
Other		
81	24-hour security at the Baker Lake Facility	24-hour security cameras were observed by NIRB staff at the Baker Lake facilities. The cameras report live feeds to the Meadowbank gatehouse, which is staffed 24 hours per day (Photo 3).

NOTE: *PC = NIRB Project Certificate No. 004, Amendment 003 (December 2018)

5.3 Observations for Whale Tail Mine Site

Table 3: Observations made at the Whale Tail Pit Site Pertaining to Terms and Conditions of Interest.

T&C No.*	Topic	Site Observation
Air Quality		
1	Active and Passive Monitoring of Dust fall	Three (3) dust fall monitoring transects were viewed along the Whale Tail Haul Road (WTHR) along with several more present onsite. Agnico Eagle's active NO ₂ monitoring equipment was not in operation for a portion of 2022 due to issues with equipment failure during power outages, but this issue has been resolved through the installation of an automatic shutoff switch. The active NO ₂ monitoring station also houses a passive NO ₂ monitoring station, with another passive station present elsewhere onsite (Photo 52 , Photo 53 , and Photo 54).
2	Dust suppression on roads	Calcium Chloride dust suppressant was applied on the entire WTHR (Photo 55), six (6) sections of the AWAR (Photo 18), and at the Baker Lake Marshalling facilities (Photo 5). Roads at the Whale Tail site received continuous watering via a water truck. Agnico Eagle staff noted that the remaining sections of the AWAR receive regular watering, however this was not observed on the site visit and dusty conditions were noted (Photo 19).
Noise and Vibration		
5	Noise Monitoring Stations	Noise monitoring stations were operational and in use at the time of the NIRB site visits. The stations were not accessible up-close during the site visit, however 1 station along the AWAR was viewed from the road (Photo 22).
Geological Features, Soils and Permafrost		
11	Erosion Management	NIRB and Agnico Eagle discussed the erosion control at site and installed erosion controls were in working order.
Hydrogeology and Groundwater Quantity and Quality		
15	Groundwater Monitoring Plan	At the time of the site visit, Agnico Eagle staff stated that the monitoring wells were installed and regularly checked.
6	Mine Contact Water Quality	Whale Tail Attenuation Pond (Photo 61) and IVR Attenuation Pond (Photo 62) collect contact water for the site. Contact water is transported to above-listed Treatment Facilities (Photo 60) for discharge into Mammoth or Whale Tail Lakes.
18	Site Water Monitoring	The NIRB observed the Whale Tail Attenuation Pond (Photo 61), IVR Attenuation Pond (Photo 62), and the Water Treatment Facilities (Photo 60) at the Whale Tail site.
Surface Water Hydrology, Surface Water Quality and Sediment Quality		
17	Surface Water Hydrology	Core Receiving Environment Monitoring Program (CREMP) sample locations were observed at Mammoth Lake (Photo 74). Agnico Eagle staff discussed the other samples taken at A20 Lake as well as reference samples taken at Pipe Dream Lake.
Freshwater Aquatic Environment		

T&C No.*	Topic	Site Observation
20	Setbacks	NIRB staff viewed the locations and has no concerns.
21	Watercourses and fish passage	No issues with fish passage were observed or noted by Agnico Eagle.
Vegetation		
25	Invasive Species	Information is available from the Environment Department in the identification of potential invasive species around the site.
Terrestrial Wildlife		
28	Terrestrial Ecosystem Management Plan (TEMP)	<p>Agnico Eagle staff expressed their intent to submit the updated Terrestrial Ecosystem Management Plan (TEMP) – version 8 to the NIRB before the end of the calendar year (2023).</p> <p>Agnico Eagle acted in accordance with the current version of the TEMP (version 7) while NIRB staff were onsite. For example, Agnico Eagle staff halted operations, parked vehicles, and reported a caribou on the road at a construction site along the WTHR (Photo 57).</p>
31	Road Traffic Management	Traffic is tracked by Agnico Eagle dispatchers, and all wildlife sightings are reported while staff are using the road in accordance with the Road Access Management Plan.
32	Wildlife road crossing	<p>Designated wildlife crossings are not present on the AWAR or WTHR due to observations that they were not necessary for the successful crossing of caribou.</p> <p>Wildlife cameras are present at known crossing areas, as identified by the Baker Lake Hunter and Trappers Organization (HTO), in part to monitor the ability of caribou to successfully cross (Photo 56). Agnico Eagle staff reported that snow berms are removed when the road is cleared to decrease the barriers for caribou crossing during winter months.</p> <p>In addition to considerations for physical barriers to road crossing, work has also begun to address concerns about noise disturbance to caribou from the road flags. Agnico Eagle has begun a pilot project to reduce noise by placing rubber tubing around the flagpoles to reduce rattling noises (Photo 15). Analysis has not yet been completed on the efficacy of this project.</p>
36	Raptor Mitigation Measures	No raptor nests have been observed on the Whale Tail site during 2023. Nests were observed by NIRB staff during the 2022 Site Visit and none of these nests remained as of the 2023 visit. Raptor deterrents were observed at the Baker Lake facilities (Photo 7).
Socio-Economic - General		
		Camp facilities that contribute to Inuit wellbeing onsite include the operational clinic (Photo 75), country food kitchen (Photo 76 and Photo 77), and recreational area (Photo 78). Other facilities such as a gym were also present onsite.
New Terms and Conditions (Amendment 1)		

T&C No.*	Topic	Site Observation
65	Haul Road designed for Caribou movement	See Site Observation for T&C 32 for a discussion of wildlife crossings on the WTHR.
66	Signage on the AWAR and WTHR	Appropriate signage was noted along both Roads.

NOTE: *PC = NIRB Project Certificate No. 008, Amendment 1 (Feb 2020)

6 PHOTOS

6.1 Meadowbank



Photo 3: 24-hour security cameras at the Baker Lake Marshalling Facility mounted on a tower. The feeds connect directly to the 24-hour manned gatehouse at kilometer 5 of the AWAR.



Photo 4: Emergency Spill Response Sea-can beside the dock at the Baker Lake Marshalling Facility.



Photo 5: Chemical dust suppression freshly applied to the Baker Lake facilities.



Photo 6: View of the Baker Lake facilities from the dock.



Photo 7: Raptor deterrent in place at the tank farm at the Baker Lake facilities.



Photo 8: Exposed liner at the Baker Lake Marshalling Facility. Pooled water is being pumped out to be stored in the Stormwater Management Pond at the Meadowbank Site.



Photo 9: Restricted Road signs in English and Inuktitut were in place on the road leading from the town of Baker Lake to the Baker Lake Marshalling Facility.



Photo 10: Gatehouse at kilometer 5 of the AWAR. The Gatehouse is staffed 24 hours per day and community members used the road must check in with Gatehouse staff.



Photo 11: A bridge on the AWAR with associated Emergency Spill Response Sea-can. These sea-cans were observed at each bridge along the road.



Photo 12: Emergency Spill Response Sea-can on the AWAR.



Photo 13: Dust monitoring transect on the AWAR.



Photo 14: Close up images of dust monitoring equipment. The jars are removed and sent offsite for analysis.



Photo 15: A new initiative by Agnico Eagle to address concerns about rattling noises coming from road flags. This initiative involves the placement of rubber tubing between the flagpole and the metal flag hardware. Analysis on the effectiveness of this initiative has not yet been completed.



Photo 16: Snowmobile crossing signs in English and Inuktitut were in place along the AWAR.



Photo 17: Wildlife have the right of way on all project roads. Agnico Eagle staff followed procedures to park their vehicles and report caribou sightings to dispatch when caribou were encountered.



Photo 18: A section of the AWAR that has received chemical dust suppression treatment.



Photo 19: Dusty conditions can be seen on sections of the road that have not received chemical dust suppression treatment.



Photo 20: Water pump removing water from a spill cleanup site at kilometer 87 of the AWAR. This was the site of spill in December 2022 and CIRNAC is working with the Proponent on clean-up.



Photo 21: Monitoring of water in the vicinity of the kilometer 87 spill is ongoing. Oil sheens can be seen in standing water.



Photo 22: Meadowbank noise monitoring station.



Photo 23: Gatehouse at the entrance to the Meadowbank Site.



Photo 24: Meadowbank Weather Station.



Photo 25: Inuktitut signage can be seen around the Meadowbank Camp.



Photo 26: Caribou Migration Maps appeared to be missing.



Photo 27: The Country Food Kitchen at the Meadowbank Camp.



Photo 28: Recreation area and phone booths at the Meadowbank Camp.



Photo 29: Tailings Storage Facility North Cell.



Photo 30: Portage Pit E and Central Dike.



Photo 31: Tailings Storage Facility South Cell.



Photo 32: Meadowbank Landfill. The pump of the lefthand side of the image is removing water that collected in the area, which is stored in the Stormwater Management Pond.



Photo 33: Wildlife deterrent or noise/bird cannon at the landfill site.



Photo 34: Meadowbank Landfarm.



Photo 35: Portage Pit A.



Photo 36: Water discharge infrastructure.



Photo 37: Portage Pit E in 2023. This pit is the primary storage area for tailings in 2023.



Photo 38: Comparison photo of Portage Pit E from the 2022 Site Visit.



Photo 39: Goose Pit. This pit previously received tailings deposition and is now capped with 35-40 metres of water.



Photo 40: Active revegetation study site. The study was started in 2023, therefore results are not yet visible.



Photo 41: Groundwater Well, 1 of 5 onsite.



Photo 42: Vault Attenuation Pond and Vault Waste Rock Storage Facility.



Photo 43: Vault Pit – refilling naturally with water since 2019.



Photo 44: BB Phaser Pit. Caribou tracks were found on the ramp to the pit, which Agnico Eagle staff hypothesized to be the same tracks as seen on the 2022 site visit.



Photo 45: Phaser Pit. The peregrine falcon nest that was observed during 2022 site visit was no longer present and Agnico Eagle staff confirmed that there are no raptor nests currently onsite.



Photo 46: Hazardous materials storage sea-cans at the Meadowbank Site.



Photo 47: Composter at the Meadowbank Site. The Incinerator was previously housed in the same building but has since been removed due to exceedances during regular stack testing.



Photo 48: New fuel tank constructed in 2023. The purpose of this tank is to increase onsite fuel storage capacity to reduce reliance on trucking fuel from Baker Lake during caribou migration road closures.



Photo 49: In-tact secondary containment berms at the Meadowbank tank farm, no visibly exposed liners were seen.



Photo 50: New contractor building constructed in 2023 to replace the burnt building seen during the 2022 site visit.



Photo 51: Caribou seen on the Meadowbank site.

6.2 Whale Tail



Photo 52: Sea-can housing the active NO₂ monitoring equipment. A Passive NO₂ monitor can be seen on the roof.



Photo 53 (left): Active NO₂ monitoring equipment with newly installed automatic shutoff switch to prevent equipment failure.

Photo 54 (right): Passive NO₂ monitor, housed on the roof of the active NO₂ monitoring sea-can.



Photo 55: The entirety of the WTHR receives chemical dust suppression treatment.



Photo 56: Wildlife cameras in place at several locations along the WTHR.



Photo 57: Caribou on the WTHR in a construction zone.



Photo 58: Whale Tail Site landfarm.



Photo 59: Whale Tail Site tank farm. A large area of exposed liner can be seen in the secondary containment berm.



Photo 60: Water treatment plant at the Whale Tail Site.



Photo 61: IVR attenuation pond and IVR Waste Rock Storage Facility.



Photo 62: Whale Tail attenuation pond.



Photo 63: Groundwater Storage Pond.



Photo 64: Secondary containment berm around fuel tanks.



Photo 65: IVR Pit – temporary storage of saline fluid as described in the 2023 modification will occur in the east lobe.



Photo 66: IVR Pit pushback area as per the 2021 Pushbacks Modification.



Photo 67: Whale Tail Pit Overview.



Photo 68: Comparison photo of Whale Tail Pit from the 2022 site visit.



Photo 69: Original Whale Tail Pit shown in red. All surrounding mining has occurred as a part of the Whale Tail Expansion Amendment (Amendment 1).



Photo 70: Mammoth Dike.



Photo 71: Whale Tail Landfill.



Photo 72: Hazardous Materials storage area.



Photo 73: Ongoing closure and reclamation study to measure leaching from waste rock.



Photo 74: Mammoth Lake contains 2 CREMP sample locations – one at each end of the Lake.

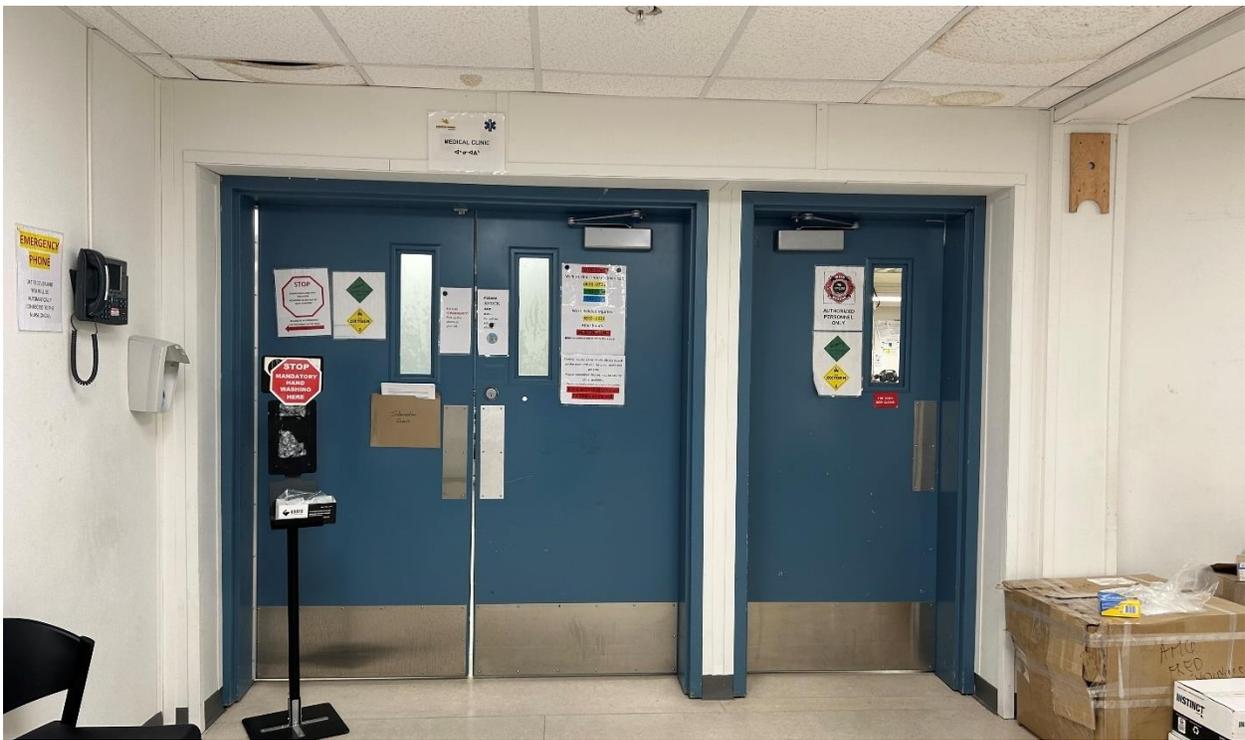


Photo 75: Whale Tail onsite clinic.



Photo 76: Country food fridges.



Photo 77: Country food kitchen space.



Photo 78: Recreational space at Whale Tail camp.

7 MONITORING OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS AND DIRECTION FROM SITE VISITS

7.1 Meadowbank

Based on the observations made during this site visit, all Meadowbank facilities in operation and all sites currently under construction continue to appear to be well managed, and generally are maintained with adequate environmental protection measures and procedures in place. Based on the topics discussed by community members at the NIRB's community consultation, Agnico Eagle should ensure that details are made public regarding the proposed closure of the Meadowbank Gold Mine, including the potential socio-economic effects on the community of Baker Lake and availability of project infrastructure to community members. Other concerns from the community suggest that the Proponent should share more accessible information with the public about potential adverse effects to the terrestrial, marine, and socio-economic environment and how these are being adequately mitigated. In addition, the public is interested in accessible information demonstrating how Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit is incorporated into Project monitoring and management plans.

The Monitoring Officers noted the following successes at the Meadowbank facilities since the previous site visit:

- Operational noise monitoring equipment;
- Operational wildlife deterrent at the landfill; and

- Noise reduction pilot project on the AWAR flagpoles.

As with years past, Agnico Eagle appears to be in compliance with a majority of the terms and conditions contained within the Meadowbank Project Certificate No. 004; however, there may be certain situations in which the Proponent has not yet fully met the requirements of the Project Certificate, and which require further consideration and attention. The Monitoring Officers will be looking at the following during the next site visit:

- Information regarding Air Traffic logs;
- Re-covering of berm liner in the secondary containment berms at the fuel storage areas at the Baker Lake Marshalling Facility; and
- Replacement of caribou migration maps.

In addition, Term and Condition 74 requires that the Proponent employ environmentally protective techniques to suppress any surface dust. This condition has not been met by the Proponent as dust suppressants have not been employed along the whole AWAR. Dust suppressants are currently applied at the mine site, along the access road between the Baker Lake facility and the start of the AWAR, along three (3) critical areas of the AWAR at km 10-12, 24-26, and 48-50 as agreed upon with the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization, as well as two (2) additional sections of the AWAR at km 68-70 and 80-84.

7.2 Whale Tail

Based on the observations made during this site visit, all Whale Tail Site facilities in operation and all sites currently under construction continue to appear to be well managed, and generally are maintained with adequate environmental protection measures and procedures in place. Based on the topics discussed by community members at the community consultation, Agnico Eagle should ensure that details are made public regarding the proposed closure of the Meadowbank Gold Mine including the potential socio-economic effects on the community of Baker Lake and availability of project infrastructure to community members. Other concerns from the community suggest that the Proponent should share more accessible information with the public about potential adverse effects to the terrestrial, marine, and socio-economic environment and how these are being adequately mitigated. In addition, the public is interested in accessible information demonstrating how Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit is incorporated into Project monitoring and management plans.

The Monitoring Officers noted the following successes at the Whale Tail pit facilities:

- Dust suppressant applied and maintained on the Whale Tail Haul Road;
- Operational active NO₂ monitoring equipment;

Agnico Eagle appears to be in compliance with a majority of the terms and conditions contained within the Whale Tail Pit Project Certificate No. 008; however, there may be certain situations in which the Proponent has not yet fully met the requirements of the Project Certificate, and which require further consideration and attention. The Monitoring Officer will be looking at the following during the next site visit:

- Recovering of berm liners in the secondary containment berms at the fuel storage area at Whale Tail.

Additionally, in order to fully meet the requirements of the Project Certificate terms and conditions, and to ensure that potential adverse impacts to the environment are adequately mitigated, the NIRB Monitoring Officer has identified the following issues that require follow-up and corrective action from the Proponent:

Term and Condition 2 requires that the Proponent verify commitments to the utilization of dust suppressants along the WTHR and any other roads and trails associated with the Project. To date, this condition has not been met by the Proponent as dust suppressants have not been employed along the whole AWAR.

8 CONCLUSION

At the end of the site visit, NIRB staff and Agnico Eagle were able to discuss some remaining areas of deficient compliance and Agnico Eagle's ideas for improvement such as dust issues on the AWAR, incorporation of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit into project plans, and the release of the updated TEMP. The NIRB anticipates hearing about these ideas and any progress in Agnico Eagle's *2023 Annual Report*.

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Date: October 3, 2023

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Signature:



NIRB File Nos. 03MN107 & 16MN056