



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

December 7, 2023

Matt Gillman
Environment Superintendent - Interim
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, X0C 0G0

Sent via email: matt.gillman@agnicoeagle.com

Re: The Nunavut Impact Review Board's 2022-2023 Annual Monitoring Report for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project and Board's Recommendations

Dear Matt Gillman:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) is hereby releasing its 2022-2023 *Annual Monitoring Report for Agnico Eagle Mine Limited's Meliadine Gold Mine Project* (NIRB File No. 11MN034) (Monitoring Report) along with the NIRB's Assessment of Agnico Eagle Mine Limited's (Agnico Eagle) Compliance Status (Appendix A). The Monitoring Report is based on the NIRB's monitoring activities as set out within the Meliadine Gold Mine Project Certificate No. 006, Amendment 2 according to Sections 12.7.1 and 12.7.2 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 135 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (NuPPAA). This Monitoring Report provides findings that resulted from monitoring of this Project that took place from October 2022 to September 2023.

All materials about the NIRB's ongoing Monitoring program for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project can be accessed from the NIRB's online Public Registry:

Project Certificate (PC)	Timeline	Project Dashboard
PC 006	Monitoring information submitted up to March 2, 2022	www.nirb.ca/project/124106
PC 006 Amendment 01		
PC 006 Amendment 02	Monitoring information submitted after March 2, 2022	www.nirb.ca/project/125515

By way of a motion carried out during its regular meeting held in November 2023, the Board has issued the following recommendations to assist Agnico Eagle in achieving compliance with the Meliadine Gold Mine Project Certificate 006 Amendment 02. These recommendations ensure that

the NIRB has all the information necessary to adequately discharge its mandate with respect to provisions within Section 12.7 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 135 of *NuPPAA* as they pertain to the Meliadine Gold Mine Project.

Recommendations for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project

Hunter Harvest Study

Term and Condition 46 of the Meliadine Project Certificate requires that Agnico Eagle work with the Hunters and Trappers Organizations and the Government of Nunavut to establish a Hunter Harvest Study. This Study was proposed, in part, to understand the potential impact of the community having increased access to the caribou and other terrestrial species. The NIRB acknowledges that Agnico Eagle has established their Hunter Harvest Study and has had successes in participation in 2021 and 2022. However, as the Hunter Harvest Study began during operations of the Meliadine Gold Mine Project, there is no baseline data or early data regarding the interaction of the road/caribou/hunters to compare pre-construction or construction (2017 through 2019). In their Terrestrial Environment Management and Monitoring Plan (version 4 (April 2022)), Agnico Eagle stated that due to lack of baseline data for caribou harvesting, thresholds cannot be identified but that they would work with the Government of Nunavut to identify next steps.

Within their 2022 Hunter Harvest Study Summary, Agnico Eagle compared 2022 and 2023 results to historical data from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study which was conducted between 1996-2001. During commenting, the Kivalliq Inuit Association requested a delay on making conclusions until at least 3 years of data are collected and the Government of Nunavut requested that more detail be provided on the assumptions made when comparing 2022 data with historical surveys. Agnico Eagle responded that they would attempt to provide hunter number data from the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study and make preliminary conclusions on the effect of the All-weather Access Road and mine site on caribou harvesting in the 2023 Annual Report. Within the 2022 Hunter Harvest Survey Report, Agnico Eagle had also proposed that the caribou harvest thresholds should be established after the collection of the 2023 Hunter Harvest Study data, therefore:

Recommendation 1: The Board recommends that within the 2023 Hunter Harvest Study Summary Report, Agnico Eagle provide hunter number and success from 1996-2001 Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study as well as an explanation of what the limitations are in comparing Agnico Eagle's Hunter Harvest Survey to this historical data and how these limitations will be factored into setting caribou harvest thresholds.

Recommendation 2: Agnico Eagle should collaborate with the Terrestrial Advisory Group, or appropriate parties including the Government of Nunavut and Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization on determining caribou harvest thresholds in advance of updating this information in management plans.

Commitment 38 Analysis

On July 17, 2023, Agnico Eagle submitted the Commitment 38 Analysis to fulfill a commitment made to the Kivalliq Inuit Association during the 2020 Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment Amendment (Waterlines Amendment).¹ The analysis was to consider collared caribou movements relative to the Meliadine Mine and the All-weather Access Road. This commitment was also incorporated into Term and Condition 44 of Project Certificate 006 Amendment 2 by the Responsible Ministers which requires that the Proponent revise the memo regarding collar caribou interaction with the All-weather Access Road in consultation with the Terrestrial Advisory Group.

The Board acknowledges that the study design for the Commitment 38 Analysis had the input of members from the Terrestrial Advisory Group. However, throughout the Public Hearing for Agnico Eagle's "Meliadine Extension" Project Proposal, the Board heard many concerns from parties about the presented analysis and its conclusions. Within its closing statements, Agnico Eagle proposed a commitment for continued collaboration on this analysis through discussing further steps and timelines in the October 2023 Terrestrial Advisory Group meeting for the following items with Agnico Eagle stating the completion target of these steps would be March 2024:

- Exchange written comments on the Commitment 38 Analysis;
- Any additional opportunities for discussion; and
- Issuance of written responses to comments or a revised memo.

Given the lack of consensus heard from members of the Terrestrial Advisory Group on the conclusions of how the limited number of collared caribou move in relation to the Project site and All-weather Access Road the Board recommends the following:

Recommendation 3: The Board recommends that Agnico Eagle complete the steps committed to for continued collaboration on the Commitment 38 Analysis, and provide the Board with an update of progress, or a revised analysis, within the 2023 Annual Report.

Terrestrial Advisory Group

As described in Term and Condition 132, the objective of developing the Terrestrial Advisory Group was "[t]o establish an advisory group to provide technical oversight on the Project's impact management, mitigation, and monitoring measures related to the protection of terrestrial wildlife and wildlife habitat based on Inuit Qaujimaningit, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Traditional and Community Knowledge and knowledge from the western science perspective shared by Responsible Parties".² During the Public Hearing for Agnico Eagle's "Meliadine Extension" Project Proposal, Agnico Eagle highlighted that although the Terrestrial Advisory Group is

¹ Public Registry ID: 346323

² Public Registry ID: 338097

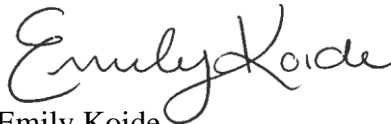
relatively new, there is continued interest by parties in developing the advisory group and making sure that it functions as intended.

The Board has concern, however, about the lack of consensus on the Commitment 38 Analysis, which was expressed by most parties involved in the Terrestrial Advisory Group during the Public Hearing. Although it is recognized that the Commitment 38 Analysis is one of the earlier outcomes of collaboration from these parties, ensuring proper functioning of the Terrestrial Advisory Group is of particular importance as Agnico Eagle collaborates on the next iteration of the Terrestrial Environment Management and Monitoring Plan and of future wildlife monitoring and management decisions.

Recommendation 4: Within 60 days, Agnico Eagle shall provide the Board with a summary of the process for the Terrestrial Environment Management and Monitoring Plan update and how Agnico Eagle has factored in sufficient time for input and revision by the Terrestrial Advisory Group members.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification regarding this request or related to the NIRB's monitoring program for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4612 or ekoide@nirb.ca or Leah Klaassen at (867) 983-4603 or lklaassen@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Emily Koide
Technical Advisor III
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Meliadine Distribution List
Sara Savoie, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Anne-Laurence Paquet, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Jade Robitaille, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

Enclosure: The Nunavut Impact Review Board's 2022-2023 *Annual Monitoring Report for Agnico Eagle Mine Limited's Meliadine Gold Mine Project (NIRB File No. 11MN034)*