



NIRB File Nos.: 03MN107 & 16MN056

NWB File Nos.: 2AM-MEA1530 & 2AM-WTP1830

December 8, 2023

Michele LeBlanc-Havard  
Director Environmental Protection  
Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment  
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Sent via email: [mleblanc-havard1@gov.nu.ca](mailto:mleblanc-havard1@gov.nu.ca)

**Re: The Nunavut Impact Review Board's 2022-2023 Annual Monitoring Report for the Meadowbank Gold Mine and Whale Tail Pit Projects and Board Recommendations**

Dear Michele LeBlanc-Havard:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) has released its *2022-2023 Annual Monitoring Report for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Meadowbank Gold Mine Project* (Meadowbank; NIRB File No. 03MN107) and *the Whale Tail Pit Project* (Whale Tail; NIRB File No. 16MN056) (the Monitoring Report) and the NIRB's Assessment of Compliance Status with the Meadowbank Gold Mine and Whale Tail Pit Project Certificates No. 004 and No. 008, respectively (Appendix I and Appendix II).<sup>1</sup>

The NIRB is responsible for post-environmental assessment monitoring of projects in accordance with Part 7 of Article 12 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*) and the associated Project Certificates. This Report provides findings that resulted from the monitoring of the Meadowbank Gold Mine and the Whale Tail Pit Projects from October 2022 to September 2023.

By way of a motion carried during its regular meeting held in November 2023, the Board has issued recommendations to assist Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle or the Proponent) in achieving compliance with the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project Certificate No. 004, Amendment 003 and Whale Tail Pit Project Certificate No. 008, Amendment 001. One (1) of these recommendations issued by the Board is directed to the Government of Nunavut and will 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 the *NuPPAA* as they pertain to both the Meadowbank Gold Mine and the Whale Tail Pit Projects.

<sup>1</sup> NIRB Document ID No.: 343311

## Recommendations for Both Meadowbank and Whale Tail Project Certificates

### Dust Suppression Measures on the All-Weather Access Road

During the 2022-2023 monitoring year, Agnico Eagle reported on their dust suppression measures in their *2022 Annual Report* and the September 29, 2023 memo. Agnico Eagle applies chemical dust suppressant or Tetraflake (CaCl<sub>2</sub>) at:

- The Baker Lake Facilities,
- The entire Whale Tail Haul Road (WTHR),
- Five (5) critical sections of the All-Weather Access Road (selected with the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Association in 2016), and
- The first 20 kilometres (km) of the AWAR.

Agnico Eagle listed their non-chemical dust suppression methods as road watering, placement of coarse material on the All-weather Access Road, road grading, and enforcement of lower speed limits.

The NIRB acknowledges improvements in the amount of area covered by chemical dust suppressant over previous years but highlights that the wording of Project Certificate 008 Term and Condition 2 and Project Certificate 003 Term and Condition 74 requires that all surface roads emitting dust must receive dust suppression measures. Further, without specific reporting on frequency, location, or established triggers for non-chemical dust suppression measures, the NIRB is not able to evaluate them towards compliance with terms and conditions. Therefore, these Terms and Conditions are not being met by Agnico Eagle's current dust suppression methods on the All-weather Access Road.

The Board also acknowledges the Government of Nunavut's (GN) role in evaluating and releasing a list of approved dust suppressants for use in the Territory, and that this guidance has not been revised since 2014.

**Recommendation 2:** Within 45 days of the issuance of this correspondence, the Board requests that the Government of Nunavut provide a response detailing any expected updates to their guidelines on dust management on unpaved roads, including the incorporation of up-to-date dust suppressant research from other jurisdictions.

All materials pertaining to the NIRB's ongoing monitoring program for the Meadowbank Gold Mine and the Whale Tail Pit Projects can be accessed from the NIRB's online Public Registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125253](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125253) (Meadowbank) and [www.nirb.ca/project/125418](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125418) (Whale Tail Pit).

If you have any questions or require further clarification regarding these recommendations in particular or relating to the NIRB's monitoring programs for the Meadowbank Gold Mine or Whale Tail Pit Projects, please contact Leah Klaassen, Technical Advisor II directly at [lklaassen@nirb.ca](mailto:lklaassen@nirb.ca) or Emily Koide, Technical Advisor III, at [ekoide@nirb.ca](mailto:ekoide@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Leah Klaassen  
Technical Advisor II  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Marie-Pier Marcil, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited  
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut  
Laura Harris, Government of Nunavut  
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut  
Meadowbank Distribution List  
Whale Tail Distribution List