

NIRB File No.: 11MN034

NWB File No.: 2BW-MEL----

AANDC File No.: N2011F0024

12 December 2011

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

Re: Opportunity to Address Comments Received Regarding Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Application for NLCA 12.10.2(b) Exception for the Phase 1 All Weather Access Road

Dear Mr. Barry,

Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited (AEM) welcomed the opportunity to provide additional information on the proposed Phase 1 All Weather Access Road (AWAR). Our responses to the various information requests are attached. Further, AEM remains available to provide additional information should the NIRB feel more detail/clarification is required beyond that presented.

AEM understands that should the NIRB approve the exception request, the Phase 2 AWAR, including design upgrades, expansion, intensified use, as well as its long term operation, existence and reclamation, will become an integral part of the Part 5 review for the Meliadine Gold Mine. Additionally, should the Meliadine Gold Mine not proceed for whatever reason, the Phase 1 AWAR will be reclaimed to the satisfaction of the regulatory agencies and landlords. AEM has proposed reclamation bonding for the Phase 1 AWAR in its draft Reclamation and Closure Plan and remains ready to post this amount upon receiving regulatory approvals.

Regional consultation was carried out by AEM and no significant public concerns were raised regarding construction and operation of the Phase 1 AWAR under this exception application; in fact, there have been strong indications of local and regional public support for the road. This includes the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, the Kangiqliniq HTO, Kivalliq businesses, and members of the general public.

In closing AEM would like to draw attention to seasonal limitations in constructing the Phase 1 AWAR. Road and bridge construction needs to begin by March 1st to take advantage of winter conditions. This is

particularly true for bridge construction where an ice bridge will need to be built on Meliadine River to allow placement of the steel girders on the abutments.

AEM looks forward to NIRB's early response to our 12.10.2(b) exception application.

Yours sincerely,



John Witteman

Cc. Louise Grondin, Eric Lamontagne, Larry Connell, Stephane Robert, Josée Noël - AEM
Phyllis Beaulieu, NWB
Margaux Brisco, AANDC
Stephen Hartman, Veronica Tattuinee, Kivalliq Inuit Association