



NIRB File No.: 11MN034
NWB File No.: 2BW-MEL----

December 16, 2011

Meliadine Distribution List

Sent via Email

Re: Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Response to Comments Received Regarding Application for NLCA 12.10.2(b) Exception – Additional Opportunity for Public Comment

Dear Parties:

On September 29, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application package from Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. (AEM or Proponent) in support of its Meliadine Gold Mine project proposal (NIRB File No. 11MN034). Specifically, this application package consisted of AEM's "Phase 1 Meliadine All-weather Access Road Project Description and Environmental Assessment" [the 12.10.2(b) application] for the proposed construction and operation of a private, single lane all-weather access road from Rankin Inlet to the Meliadine site in support of the Proponent's continued exploration and bulk sampling program. On October 20, 2011, the NIRB invited comments from interested parties on AEM's 12.10.2(b) application package, with a request for submissions to be received on or before November 21, 2011.

As activities excepted under NLCA Section 12.10.2(b) would be considered for approval separately from the NIRB's Review of AEM's Meliadine Gold Mine project proposal, parties were asked to provide their comments and advice to the Board regarding the following issues:

- Agreement or disagreement with the conclusions in the 12.10.2(b) application package regarding the alternatives assessment, environmental impacts, proposed mitigation, significance of impacts, and monitoring measures;
- Whether or not conclusions in the 12.10.2(b) application package were supported by the analysis;
- Assessment of the quality and presentation of the information in the 12.10.2(b) application package;
- The expressed need for and required timing of the proposed exceptions as presented within the 12.10.2(b) application package;
- Permanence of proposed infrastructure;
- The reversibility of potential impacts;
- The adequacy of proposed security bonding; and,
- Whether approval of the activities would have the effect or appearance of fettering any further or final decision by the Board relating to the larger project under review.

On or before November 21, 2011 comments regarding AEM's 12.10.2(b) application were received from the following parties:

- Kivalliq Inuit Association;
- Government of Nunavut;
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada;
- Environment Canada;
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
- Transport Canada; and,
- Kivalliq Services.

All submissions can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry using the following link:
<http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/11MN034-AEM%20MELIADINE/2-REVIEW/15-12.10.2%20EXCEPTIONS/03-COMMENTS/>

On December 2, 2011 the NIRB requested that AEM respond to parties' comments and provide additional information as was requested in those submissions from agencies identified above. On December 12, 2011 the NIRB received a package from AEM in response to public comments pertaining to its 12.10.2(b) application. The response package can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry using the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/11MN034-AEM%20MELIADINE/2-REVIEW/15-12.10.2%20EXCEPTIONS/01-APPLICATION/Response%20to%20Comments/>

The NIRB requests that parties review the information provided by AEM in its December 12, 2011 response and provide the Board with any additional comments or outstanding concerns regarding AEM's 12.10.2(b) application. The NIRB requests that comments be submitted to our office via email to info@nirb.ca or by fax to (867) 983-2594, on or before **January 20, 2011**.

If you have any questions regarding the NIRB's review of AEM's Meliadine Gold project please contact Kelli Gillard, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Larry Connell, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
John Witteman, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
Eric Lamontagne, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Margaux Brisco, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Derrick Moggy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ryan Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board
Dionne Filiatrault, Nunavut Water Board