

Ministre des Affaires autochtones
et du développement du Nord



Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

MAY 23 2012

Ms. Elizabeth Copland
Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360
CAMBRIDGE BAY NU X0B 0C0



Dear Ms. Copland:

This is in response to the letter of February 20, 2012, from your predecessor, Mr. Lucassie Arragutainaq, regarding Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Gold Mine Project Proposal, located in the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut (NIRB 11MN034).

In the course of the Part 5 review of the Meliadine Gold Mine, the Nunavut Impact Review Board was asked to approve Phase 1 of the development of an all-weather road to serve the Meliadine West advanced exploration project, and potentially the proposed mine. The effect of this application, if granted, would be to exclude the development of Phase 1 of the road from the review of the mine. Under section 12.10.2(b) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the Nunavut Impact Review Board can determine that exploration or development activities related to a project under review may proceed without being subject to the review.

Your letter indicates that the Nunavut Impact Review Board has approved the development of Phase 1 of the all-weather road, as requested, and that the development is therefore excluded from the ongoing review of Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Gold Mine Project. Given the Nunavut Impact Review Board's decision, regulatory agencies are now able to issue the required permits at their discretion.

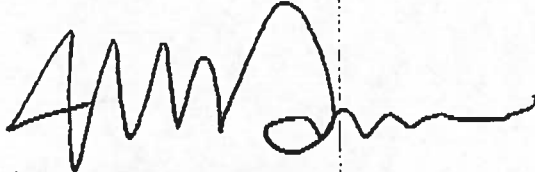
I would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board for its diligence in considering this application and for keeping me and my colleagues informed with respect to this matter.

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Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Robin Aitken, Regional Director General, Nunavut Region, by phone at 867-975-4501 or by email at Robin.Aitken@aandc.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Duncan', with a stylized, cursive script.

John Duncan, PC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Denis Lebel, PC, MP
The Honourable Keith Ashfield, PC, MP
The Honourable Joe Oliver, PC, MP
The Honourable Lorne Kusugak, MLA
Mr. David Ningeongan