

June 18, 2007

Honourable Ed Picco c/o Jennifer Wilman Manager, Research Liaison Igaluit, NU

Via email: JWilman@nac.nu.ca

Re: <u>Application Exempt from Screening: Environmental Monitoring at Meadowbank Gold Project – Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.</u>

Dear Ms. Wilman:

On June 5, 2007 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd's (Agnico-Eagle's) Environmental Monitoring at Meadowbank Gold Project (Project). Be advised that this project proposal (Meadowbank Gold Project) was previously screened, and subsequently reviewed pursuant to Part 5 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) (NIRB File No. 03MN107). On November 17, 2006, pursuant to Article 12.5.7 of the NLCA, Minister Prentice approved the Nunavut Impact Review Board's recommendation that the Project proceed, subject to certain terms and conditions.

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

"Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:

- (a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or
- (b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project.

The NRI application indicates the following activities and components of the monitoring project to be undertaken:

- Helicopter air surveys
- Soil sampling
- Hydrological testing
- Noise monitoring
- Physical stream habitat survey at select crossings along road
- Fish presence and migration at bridge crossings along road
- Geochemistry of on-land overburden tills at the mine site using test pit sampling
- Wildlife and bird surveys (waterfowl, breeding bird, aerial and ground raptor)
- Caribou radio-collaring

NIRB is of the understanding that, based on review of the initial NRI application (June 5, 2007) and the Final Environmental Impact Statement of October 2005 (Meadowbank Gold Project), the Project

monitoring components have not changed and that the exceptions in 12.4.3 (a) and (b) do not apply. Therefore this application is exempt from screening, but is subject to the terms and conditions the NIRB issued in the Meadowbank Gold Project Certificate, December 30, 2006 (attached).

Additionally, the Proponent is to be advised that, pursuant to section 13.7.1 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, "with the exception of domestic or emergency use of water as set out in section 5 of the Northern Inland Waters Act (RSC 1985, c.N-25), no person may use water or dispose of waste into water without the approval of the NWB." To the best of the NIRB's knowledge at this time, no water licence has been issued for the Meadowbank Gold Project or any associated activities.

Further, the Proponent is advised that this exemption does not extend to any other authorizations that may be required in order to proceed with the activities outlined in the NRI application. It is the Proponent's responsibility to ensure all required permits and authorizations are obtained prior to the commencement of activities.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact NIRB's Manager of Environmental Administration, Leslie Payette at <a href="mailto:lpayette@nirb.nunavut.ca">lpayette@nirb.nunavut.ca</a> or 867-983-4611.

Best regards

Jeff Rusk for: Stephanie Briscoe Executive Director

Attachment:

December 30, 2006 NIRB Project Certificate

Cc:

Nunavut Water Board Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. Gebauer & Associates Ltd.