



NIRB File No.: 10XN039
Related NIRB File No.: 03MN107
NWB File No.: 2AM-MEA0815

April 22, 2010

Honourable Gail Shea
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ottawa, ON

Via email: Shea.G@parl.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for the NIRB's Screening of Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meadowbank Airstrip Expansion Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Gail Shea:

Pursuant to Section 12.4.5 (b) of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement (NLCA), the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) hereby requests more time to screen the project proposal referenced above.

On February 4, 2010 the NIRB received Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM) "Meadowbank Airstrip Expansion" project proposal from AEM. On February 10, 2010 the NIRB issued the enclosed correspondence which requested that the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) provide a conformity determination for the proposed activity, and also that agencies responsible for authorizing the project activities advise the NIRB of any such requirements.

On March 2, 2010 the NIRB received notification from the Nunavut Planning Commission that no conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) would be required for the "Meadowbank Airstrip Expansion" project proposal. On April 15, 2010 the NIRB received notification from the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) that the application for expansion to the Meadowbank airstrip would require an amendment to the original NWB water license (2AM-MEA0815). Further, on April 18, 2010 the NIRB received confirmation from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) that the proposed expansion of the Meadowbank airstrip would require authorization by DFO. The NIRB assigned this project proposal file number **10XN039** and has commenced Screening pursuant to NLCA Article 12, Part 4.

The NIRB is not able to provide a screening decision within the 45 day time period as per Section 12.4.5 of the NLCA and therefore requires additional time to screen the project proposal. It is anticipated that the screening process will be completed by **June 1, 2010**.

If this request is approved, the NIRB understands that the authorizing agency will inform the Proponent, stakeholders and interested Parties on the extension.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Autut
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): NIRB Correspondence to AEM Re Application Pending Authorization and NPC Conformity (February 10, 2010)

cc: Stéphane Robert, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
Larry Connell, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
David Balint, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board