

December 12, 2010

Via email

Ms. Amanda Hanson
Monitoring Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut X0B 0C0
(867) 983-4615

Dear Ms. Hanson,

**Re: File 03MN107 - AEM Response to Recommendations based on the NIRB's
2009-2010 Annual Monitoring Report for the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project**

The following information and comments are intended to address the directives outlined in correspondence from NIRB dated November 12, 2010 *'The Nunavut Impact Review Board's 2009-2010 Annual Monitoring Report for the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project and board recommendation'* made in relation to the conditions of Project Certificate No.004.

Item #2

With respect to the mapping that is required by PC Condition 56, the Board requests that the Proponent provide it and the GN-DOE with justification for the conclusions presented in AEM's 2009 Annual Report regarding the significance of caribou migration data collected during the 2009 reporting period, and specifically, its claim that the information obtained for caribou migration did not substantially alter conclusions from 2008.

Agnico-Eagle continues to collect caribou migration information from hunters and via satellite-collaring data to further refine caribou migration patterns through the Meadowbank Local Study Area (LSA). Between 2008 and 2009, only one collared animal traversed the LSA. At the time of completing the annual report, the caribou migration map was not completed. The caribou migration map was update in May 2010 and was send to GN-DOE and NIRB on May 17, 2010. AEM received recommendations from GN on July 8, 2010 and will be integrated in the next version of the caribou migration route map. The caribou migration route map will continue to be updated on an annual basis and maps at the Meadowbank site will be replaced with the current version in 2011, following inclusion of the 2010 data set.

Item #4

With regard to PC Condition 69, where the Board's December 9, 2009 recommendations to the Proponent required that it submit reporting to the GN and NIRB within one year of the date of noted recommendation, at the time of this letter the Proponent had not yet submitted the required information. The Board requests that the report be submitted by December 9, 2010 as was previously recommended. The Board requests that NIRB staff follow up with the Proponent and the GN to ensure the Proponent is compliant with the 2009 recommendation and to provide any guidance or assistance that may required.

To comply with condition 69 and the NIRB's 2009-2010 Board Recommendations, supplemental archaeological field studies were undertaken in summer 2010, including assessment of the tank farm expansion as well as site audits of all sites within proximity of the marshalling area, all-season access road and quarry sources, and the mine.

69. Cumberland shall carry out the Project to minimize the impacts on archaeological sites, including conducting proper archaeological surveys of the Project area (including the all-weather road and all quarry sites). Cumberland shall provide to the GN an updated baseline report for archaeological sites in the Project area, including:

- a. referencing of sites as directed by the GN,*
- b. the process used for age determinations of archaeological sites, and*
- c. the specific measures being taken to avoid listed sites, and*
- d. the monitoring that will take place, to the GN prior to the commencement of construction.*

These requirements were addressed in this 2010 archaeological study:

- a. All sites newly recorded or revisited were assessed and documented. Archaeological site forms were completed for submission to CLEY and the Canadian Museum of Civilization, and site details, including relationship to the Meadowbank Project, have been presented in this report.
- b. The process for site age determination has been presented in the Methodology section of the current report.
- c. Site locations (UTMs and/or polygons) have been provided to AEM, along with site sketch maps, to ensure that AEM has the necessary information to ensure ongoing avoidance of sites.
- d. The 2010 field studies were considered to be the first stage of monitoring – site audits of all sites within proximity of the project were conducted at the request of AEM in order to update the status of each site and to provide additional information (such as updated UTM's and site sketch maps) for each site. AEM has committed to ensuring that Archaeological Impact Assessment studies will take place for all future proposed project components.

On December 9, the 2010 archaeological study was submitted to NIRB and to GN.

Item #5

The PC Condition 71 requires that the Proponent install an atmospheric monitoring station and report the results of air quality monitoring to the NIRB annually. This condition has not been met and has been included as a recommendation from the Board to the Proponent following both the 2008 and 2009 NIRB Monitoring Reports. The Board recommends that the Proponent initiate air quality monitoring; the collection of both baseline and ongoing project data is essential to determining impacts and making comparisons with pre-project conditions and predicted impacts. The Board requests that the Proponent initiate discussions with EC regarding the placement of sampling equipment and parameters to be sampled, in addition to providing a plan of action for the implementation of Condition 71.

A conference call was held with Environment Canada (Anne Wilson, Dave Fox and Allison Dunn) on December 9, 2010 concerning the proposed air quality monitoring program. Before the conference call, a study on the location of the samplers was sent to EC. Based on the need for power and appropriate proximity from the mining operations, finding the best location will take some work. EC and AEM were agree that we will need to hold further discussions on the location of the samplers. A site visit by EC will be held in March 2011 to determine the location of the samplers. The installation will follow once the best sites are determined.

Should you have any questions regarding this response, please contact me via email at stephane.robert@agnico-eagle.com or by telephone at 819-763-0229.

Regards,



Stéphane Robert
Environment Superintendent

Cc: Anne Wilson, Environment Canada
Douglas Stenton, Government of Nunavut, Culture Language Elders and Youth
Alison Loder, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
