## Ministre des Affaires autochtones et du développement du Nord



Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

MAV 7 2015

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

Via e-mail: info@nirb.ca



Dear Ms. Copland:

Thank you for your letter of January 23, 2015, regarding the Nunavut Impact Review Board's determination on Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s request to reconsider the terms and conditions in the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project Certificate No.004 for the Meadowbank Gold Project.

In its request of July 28, 2014, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. notified the Nunavut Impact Review Board of proposed changes to the Project to expand its current Vault pit operations southwest into nearby Phaser Lake to form Phaser pit, which is expected to produce 21,511 ounces of gold.

The Board has stated that the economic circumstances relating to the Project or the effect of the terms and conditions are now significantly different from those anticipated when the Project was previously proposed and subsequently approved. On this basis, the Board has determined that it is appropriate to reconsider the terms and conditions of the Project Certificate No.004 pursuant to section 12.8.2(b) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

As per section 12.5.4 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the Nunavut Impact Review Board is seeking my direction with respect to priorities and time frames for completion of the Board's reconsideration of the Project Certificate No. 004. I recognize that this is a busy time for the Board given the number of projects currently undergoing assessment. However, in light of the relatively small scale of the proposed changes to the Project, I would encourage the Board to conduct its reconsideration of the Project Certificate No. 004 in as expeditious a manner as possible.

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I would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board for the chance to comment on this matter and I look forward to receiving the Board's report upon conclusion of the reconsideration process.

Sincerely,

Bernard Valcourt, PC, QC, MP

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c.c.: Mr. Stéphane Robert