



NIRB File No.: 03MN107

DFO File No.: 03-HCAA-CA7-00191; 14HCAA-01046

August 28, 2015

To: Meadowbank Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Proposed Alternative Assessment Timeline for AEM's Addendum to the FEIS for the Vault Pit Expansion Proposal to the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project

Dear Parties:

On August 19, 2015 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received correspondence from Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (AEM or Proponent) requesting that the NIRB consider an alternative schedule to the Board's reconsideration of the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project Certificate pursuant to Section 12.8.2 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). While the NIRB provides consistency to the assessment process, some consideration may be given to the undertaking of each step in a manner sufficient for the project being assessed as well as ensuring effective involvement of the parties participating in the assessment. As a result, the NIRB has reviewed the request by AEM and is prepared to consider an updated timeline to the process to improve the efficiency of the process while taking into consideration other ongoing assessments at the current time. Further, the NIRB appreciates the dialogue AEM has had with the Kivalliq Inuit Association on the process map and alternative timelines. The NIRB would like parties to review the attached alternative process map and provide comments on the shortened overall process to the NIRB by **September 2, 2015**.

The NIRB notes AEM's concern regarding the limited scale of the proposed expansion of the Vault Pit into Phaser Lake and the fact that many of the regulatory authorities tasked with reviewing the current proposal may not have been present during the initial review process of the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project proposal and may not have the history or knowledge of what was reviewed. The NIRB would like to note that it remains AEM's responsibility to continue to consult with the responsible authorities to address the issues noted in the correspondence, as well as respond to or resolve agency concerns promptly.

The updated next steps that the NIRB is proposing in its reconsideration of the terms and conditions of Project Certificate No. 004 for the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project are outlined as follows:

- Submission of Information Requests (IRs) directly to the NIRB by interested parties on or before **August 28, 2015** (30 days).

- After considering all IRs and making decisions regarding their suitability, the NIRB will forward all appropriate requests to the Proponent (and other parties if applicable) by **September 2, 2015**.
- Parties provide comments on the shortened process to the NIRB by **September 2, 2015**.
- Upon forwarding IRs for a response, the NIRB may set a timeframe for the Proponent (and other parties if applicable) to respond with an IR response package. In this case, 15 days would be provided to respond to IRs. Submission of response to IRs directly to the NIRB on or before **September 17, 2015**.
- Upon receipt of the IR response package(s), **60 day** technical review period commences with comments due **November 20, 2015**.
- Two day technical meeting (*via teleconference*) to be prior to end of technical review period, tentatively proposed to start on **November 16, 2015**.

The NIRB is respectfully requesting that parties identify if the updated timeline is reasonable, or if not, any issues with the updated timeline that would limit the agency's effective involvement in the process.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the next steps in the Board's assessment of the Vault Pit Expansion proposal, please contact the undersigned at (867) 857-2052 or sgranchinho@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Sophia Granchinho, M.Sc. EP
Senior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Stéphane Robert, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
Ryan Vanengen, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.

Enclosure: Updated Process Map