



NIRB File No.: 03MN107
KIA File No.: KVPL08D280
DFO File No.: 14HCAA-01046
EC File No.: 6100 000 008 /002

December 11, 2015

Meadowbank Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Notice of Public Hearing and Intervenor Application Deadline for the NIRB's Reconsideration of AEM's Meadowbank Gold Mine Project Certificate for the Vault Pit Expansion proposal

Dear Parties:

Please find enclosed the Notice of Hearing for the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) review of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM or Proponent) proposed Vault Pit Expansion project to the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project (NIRB File No. 03MN107). The hearing is being held to reconsider the terms and conditions of the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project Certificate [No. 004] pursuant to Section 12.8.2 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

Please note that formal notice will also be appearing in local newspapers in the coming weeks in English, French and Inuktitut. A copy of the notice has also been posted online to the NIRB's online public registry (with translated copies to follow) and can be accessed at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/03-MONITORING/03MN107-MEADOWBANK%20GOLD%20MINE/01-PROJECT%20CERTIFICATE/05-AMENDMENTS/02-VAULT%20EXPANSION-CONDITION%2048/08-HEARING/02-NOTICES%20%26%20ADVERTISEMENTS/>.

Dates of Public Hearing

The Board has determined that the Public Hearing will be held in the community of Baker Lake from March 1-2, 2016, and will involve a combination of technical and non-technical sessions. The NIRB has worked with the community of Baker Lake to determine acceptable dates and secure an appropriate venue and associated logistics needed for this event. The NIRB is pleased to announce the following schedule for this Public Hearing:

LOCATION	DATE	TIME*	SCHEDULE
Baker Lake, Community Hall	March 1, 2016	9:00 am – 5:00 pm; 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Technical Presentations Evening Session
	March 2, 2016	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Technical Presentations
	March 2, 2016	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Community Roundtable and Closing Statements

***NOTE: The NIRB may, in its discretion, extend any day session into an evening session if required.**

While the agenda for the Public Hearing will be circulated to all parties in advance and may be adjusted as necessary at the discretion of the NIRB's Chairperson, the schedule for these proceedings has been arranged such that the first portion of the Public Hearing will consist of formal proceedings, including technical presentations, while the latter portion will allow for more directed community engagement through community roundtable sessions. An evening session will be held to ensure members of the community also have adequate opportunity to participate outside of regular working hours.

Public Hearing Logistics & Details

The Public Hearing will be conducted in accordance with the NIRB's Rules of Procedure¹. Proceedings will be facilitated by the NIRB's Board Members, with support from NIRB staff and legal counsel as required. A stenographer will be present at the Hearing to record an official transcript, and simultaneous English and Inuktitut interpretation will be provided through all proceedings, while French interpretation may also be provided if requested at least 14 days in advance of the Hearing. Access to the full public registry will be made available during proceedings.

Intervenor Status

The enclosed Notice of Hearing provides direction to parties wishing to apply for formal intervenor status for the hearing proceedings. For the benefit of all the parties we are providing the following additional information:

1. Under the Board's Rules of Procedure (September 2009) (the "Rules"), s. 22.1 authorizing agencies² have full standing throughout the Review and are NOT required to file a request to be granted intervenor status.
2. Part 22 of the Rules also recognizes that there may be parties who have not been involved throughout the Review, but who may, upon receiving the formal Notice of Hearing determine that they wish to apply for intervenor status at the Hearing. For these potential intervenors, the Board requires the completion of an Application Form to request intervenor status (**enclosed**) to be filed with the Board on or before **December 23, 2015**.
3. The Board will review and consider completed Application Forms and may:
 - a. circulate the Application with a request for comments;

¹ NIRB Rules of Procedure (September, 2009) are available from the NIRB's online registry from the following link: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/06-RULES/>.

² Defined under s. 2.1 of the Rules to include any Canadian or Nunavut government department or agency, Designated Inuit Organization (DIO) or any other body that has the authority to issue a permit, lease, licence or grant approval to a proponent to conduct some physical work or physical activity in relation to a project proposal.

- b. decide that more information is required or request that the Application be modified as directed by the Board;
 - c. decide that the intervention request is not granted because the submission is frivolous, vexatious or of little merit; or
 - d. grant the intervention request and notify all parties of that decision.
4. Given the approaching Public Hearing and the desire for all parties to have adequate notice and time to prepare for their participation, the Board will endeavour to take the steps outlined in Item 3 as promptly as possible and expects to make its determination and issue a letter accepting or rejecting any of the intervention requests received on or before **December 29, 2015**.
5. All regulatory authorities and parties granted intervenor status will have until **February 12, 2016** to file their final written submissions for the Public Hearing with the NIRB.

Summary


In closing, as we move closer to the Public Hearing for the NIRB's reconsideration of the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project Certificate and the assessment of the Vault Pit Expansion proposal, the Board thanks all parties for their continued active engagement. Additional details regarding the Hearing will be provided as they become available.

As a reminder to all parties, the NIRB will accept applications for Intervenor Status until **5:00 pm MST, Wednesday, December 23, 2015**.

The NIRB reminds all parties that the deadline for final written submissions is **5:00 pm MST, Friday, February 12, 2016**.

Should you have questions regarding the upcoming Public Hearing for the NIRB's reconsideration of the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project Certificate, including the NIRB's Rules of Procedure and intervenor status applications, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4608 or via email at rbarry@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

Enclosed: Notice of Public Hearing (*December 11, 2015*)
Application Form Requesting Intervenor Status (English and Inuktitut)