



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

January 19, 2016

Meadowbank Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Logistics Information for Upcoming Public Hearing for AEM's Vault Pit Expansion proposal for the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project

Dear Parties:

On December 11, 2015 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) issued its Notice of Hearing for the NIRB's review of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM or Proponent) proposed Vault Pit Expansion 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 and the Board would like to remind parties that final written submissions for the Public Hearing are due February 12, 2016.

Public Hearing

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. 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. However the NIRB retains the ability to extend the Public Hearing schedule as necessary and the Board will provide further confirmation to parties regarding the Public Hearing dates and draft agenda in the coming weeks.

Public Awareness and Community Engagement

The NIRB will be inviting up to five (5) representatives from the community of Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet to attend the Hearing in Baker Lake and will set about soliciting representative's participation in the coming weeks.¹

The NIRB is prepared to cover the costs of travel, accommodations and meals for these community representatives in order to allow for their attendance and participation the Public Hearing in Baker Lake. The Board will be requesting the nomination of community representatives from Hamlet Councils, Hunters & Trappers Organizations, and other community groups to encourage representation that is inclusive of a variety of demographics including, but not limited to, Inuit harvesters, Women, Youth and Elders.

Hotel Accommodations

A block of hotel accommodations are currently being held by the NIRB in Baker Lake in order to facilitate participation by responsible authorities, organizations and Intervenor at the upcoming Public Hearing. The Board asks that all parties plan to provide sufficient representation during both the planned technical sessions and community roundtable portions of the Public Hearing.

The NIRB is prepared to release reserved hotel beds to representatives from the following organizations:

- Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI)
- Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA)
- Government of Nunavut (GN)
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)
- Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)
- Transport Canada (TC)

Given that the availability of hotel beds in Baker Lake may be limited and may be somewhat less than the number of intended participants for the Hearing, the NIRB will do its best to distribute available hotel beds amongst parties as evenly as possible. The Board will also assist parties where required and/or requested, with securing billet accommodations to the extent possible, and strongly encourages all groups to consider this option. Parties are hereby requested to notify the NIRB at info@nirb.ca regarding their interest in securing hotel beds and/or billeted accommodations in Baker Lake as soon as possible. Reservations for individual hotel beds will be transferred from the NIRB to the planned attendee, who will be responsible for confirming the room and assuming associated costs. The NIRB will release any remaining unrequested hotel beds from our group reservation by **February 5, 2016**.

Translation/Interpretation Requirements

On December 11, 2015 the NIRB indicated that the Hearing proceedings would be conducted in Inuktitut and English using simultaneous interpretation, and that simultaneous interpretation in

¹ Any interested members of the public from Baker Lake will be welcome to participate during the Public Hearing.

French would be made available upon request. The NIRB requests that any parties requiring French interpretation for the Hearing notify the NIRB by **February 5, 2016**.

Additionally, those who require special audio-visual equipment at the Hearing are requested to inform the NIRB and to specify the nature of equipment required in order that adequate arrangements can be made on or by **February 5, 2016**.

Media Access to the Hearing

The Board is supportive of any planned efforts by public media outlets to cover the public hearing proceedings and the Board will ensure that media representatives are granted sufficient access to the proceedings to report accurately. The NIRB will also have court reporters attend to produce a transcript of the proceedings to ensure that there is a full and fair historical record that is readily accessible to all. However, the Board is also concerned with ensuring that the participants at the Hearing are not unduly limited in their willingness and ability to participate fully if recordings should become intrusive or disruptive. The NIRB has established rules for recording of public hearings and other proceedings that it asks all media outlets to observe to assist in minimizing all such disruptions.

As such, the NIRB would like to request that all media outlets that wish to record proceedings during the Public Hearing (film, photograph, audio) request media access from the Board on or before **February 5, 2016**.

Summary

In closing, as we move closer to the Public Hearing for the NIRB's reconsideration of the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project Certificate, the Board thanks all parties for their support and encourages their continued active engagement in the reconsideration process. Additional details regarding hearing logistics and final scheduling will be provided as they become available over the coming weeks.

Once again the NIRB requests that parties notify the NIRB at info@nirb.ca on or before **5:00 pm Friday, February 5, 2016** regarding the following:

1. Expression of interest in securing hotel beds and/or billeted accommodations in Baker Lake.
2. Indicate whether French interpretation and/or special audio-visual equipment will be required at the Hearing (indicate which audio-visual equipment will be required).
3. Requests for access from media outlets to record Hearing proceedings (film, photograph, audio).

The NIRB would also like to remind all parties that the deadline for final written submissions is **February 12, 2016**.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Granchinho'.

Sophia Granchinho, M.Sc. EP
Manager, Impact Assessment
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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