

Appendix G9

Letter: Country Food: Letter sends to Environment Canada



NIRB File No. 03MN107

December 7, 2012

Kelly Senkiw
Environmental Assessment Coordinator
Health Canada, Environmental Assessment Division
99 Metcalfe Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0K9

Sent via email: kelly.senkiw@hc-sc.gc.ca

Re: The Nunavut Impact Review Board's 2011 – 2012 Annual Monitoring Report for the Meadowbank Gold Project and Board's Recommendations

Dear Kelly Senkiw:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) released its *2011 – 2012 Annual Monitoring Report for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meadowbank Gold Project* (Monitoring Report) under separate cover earlier today¹. The enclosed Monitoring Report is based on the NIRB's monitoring activities pursuant to the Project Certificate [004] and Sections 12.7.1 and 12.7.2 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. This report provides findings that resulted from monitoring of this Project that took place from October 2011 to September 2012.

Based upon the Board's review of the monitoring report and other materials related to the Meadowbank Project, the Board has issued the following recommendation in order to assist Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. (AEM) in achieving compliance with the Project Certificate [004] and other project-related commitments.

Monitoring of Country Foods – Condition 67

Condition 67 requires that the Proponent develop a program which monitors contaminant levels in country foods and to submit this plan to the NIRB. In 2011, AEM completed a wildlife screening level risk assessment report (WSLRA)² and a preliminary quantitative risk assessment

¹ NIRB, "The Nunavut Impact Review Board's 2011 – 2012 Annual Monitoring Report for the Meadowbank Gold Project and Board Recommendations", letter, December 7, 2012.

² "Wildlife Screening Level Risk Assessment for the Meadowbank Gold Project," Appendix I1 of *Meadowbank Gold Project 2011 Annual Report*, 2012 (<http://ftp.nirb.ca/03-MONITORING/03MN107-MEADOWBANK%20GOLD%20MINE/03-ANNUAL%20REPORTS/02-PROPONENT/2011/01-REPORT/>).

(PQRA)³ in order to meet the requirements of Condition 67. Results in the WSLRA report indicated that the operation of the Meadowbank mine did not appear to be contributing excess risk from chemical contaminants to wildlife residing in the area. The author of the PQRA recommended further studies be conducted, specifically for chromium exposure to caribou and chromium concentration in lichen at both reference and mine site locations. At this time, AEM has not provided any indication as to whether these further studies may be conducted.

As carried by way of a motion at its recent November 2012 meeting held in Arviat, Nunavut the Board invites Health Canada to provide comments on the results of both the WSLRA and PQRA reports as provided by AEM, and to indicate whether or not further information may be required with respect to the monitoring program as outlined in Condition 67.

The Board respectfully requests that Health Canada provide comments regarding these reports to the NIRB by **February 4, 2013**. If you have any questions or require further clarification related to the NIRB's monitoring of the Meadowbank project, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (867) 793-4633 or sgranchinho@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Sophia Granchinho, M.Sc., EP
Technical Advisor & Meadowbank Project Monitoring Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Stéphane Robert, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
Kevin Buck, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
Meadowbank Distribution List

Enclosure: The Nunavut Impact Review Board's *2011 – 2012 Annual Monitoring Report for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meadowbank Gold Project*.

³ "Human Health Preliminary Quantitative Risk Assessment of Consumption of Country Foods for the Meadowbank Gold Project," Appendix I2 of *Meadowbank Gold Project 2011 Annual Report*, 2012(<http://ftp.nirb.ca/03-MONITORING/03MN107-MEADOWBANK%20GOLD%20MINE/03-ANNUAL%20REPORTS/02-PROPONENT/2011/01-REPORT/>).