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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

**Files No.: 2AM-WTP1826
2AM-MEA1526/Amendment**

May 29, 2018

By Courier, Email and Regular Mail

Honourable Carolyn Bennett, PC, MP
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
21st Floor, 10 Wellington, North Tower
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4
Email: carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca; minister@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca

**Subject: New Type “A” Water Licence No. 2AM-WTP1826 Whale Tail Pit Project;
Amendment to Type “A” Water Licence No. 2AM-MEA1525, Meadowbank
Gold Mine Project; Agnico Eagle Mines Limited**

Dear Honourable Minister Bennett:

Please find enclosed the new Type “A” Water Licence No. 2AM-WTP1826 and amendments to the existing Type “A” Water Licence No. 2AM-MEA1525 (to become 2AM-MEA1526), the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) recommends be issued to Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle) for a Mining Undertaking as defined under Schedule 1, Item 2 of the *Nunavut Waters Regulations*, SOR/2013-69.

Water Licence No. 2AM-WTP1826 authorizes Agnico Eagle to use Water and deposit Waste in support of mine construction, operation, closure and reclamation activities at the Whale Tail Pit gold mine site, located approximately 150 kilometres (km) north of the Hamlet of Baker Lake and approximately 50 km northwest of the Meadowbank Gold Mine site, within the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut. As the ore processing infrastructure at the Meadowbank Gold Mine site will be used to process the additional ore from the Whale Tail Pit, the NWB has also recommended consequential amendments to the existing Meadowbank Gold Mine Water Licence No. 2AM-MEA1525 (renumbered to 2AM-MEA1526 to reflect the 1 year extension to the term to align the term of the existing licence with the term of the new licence).

With respect to pre-licensing requirements, the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) found the Whale Tail Pit Project Proposal to be in conformity with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan on June 17, 2016 and referred the Project to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for assessment. As Agnico Eagle had requested that the NIRB's assessment of the Project be coordinated with the NWB's water licensing process for the Project, the NWB held the NWB's Public Hearing for the file immediately following the NIRB's Final Hearing in September 2017 but kept the Public Hearing Record open until the NIRB's Review process was completed.

On March 15, 2018, the NIRB, pursuant to Article 12, Section 12.5.12 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 111(1) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 completed their Review of the Project and issued NIRB Project Certificate [No. 008] for the Whale Tail Pit Project. On April 4, 2018, the NWB closed the Public Hearing Record for the file and remitted the file to the NWB's duly appointed decision-making Panel for the file, the Whale Tail Pit Panel (P17). On April 26, 2018, the Whale Tail Pit Panel met and decided, by way of Motions 2018-06-P17-05 and #2018-06-P17-06 to grant the attached Water Licence No.: 2AM-WTP1826 and Amended Water Licence No. 2AM-MEA1526 in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in the Licences and as described in the Decision.

Please note that, as required under s. 63 of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 10 (*NWNSRTA*), the NWB has awaited the receipt of formal confirmation from the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) and Agnico Eagle that there are no outstanding issues of water user compensation before releasing the Decision and Licences. This confirmation was received by the NWB on May 29, 2018.

In accordance with s. 56 of the *NWNSRTA*, the new and amended Licences require your approval and, as such, the NWB provides the attached: Reasons for Decision, including Record of Proceedings; new Licence; and amended Licence for your review and consideration.

Should you have any questions and/or require clarification on the above, or wish to discuss further, please contact the undersigned in writing.

Sincerely,

Lootie Toomasie
Nunavut Water Board, Chair

Cc: Kivalliq Distribution List

Enclosures: Water Licence 2AM-WTP1826
Amendments to Water Licence 2AM-MEA1525 (renumbered to 2AM-MEA1526)
NWB, Water Licence Nos.: 2AM-WTP1826 and 2AM-MEA1525, Reasons for
Decision and Record of Proceedings