



AGNICO EAGLE

MELIADINE GOLD PROJECT

Borrow Pits and Quarries Management Plan

**JANUARY 2024
VERSION 7_NWB**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle) operates the Meliadine Gold Mine (Mine), located approximately 25 kilometres (km) north of Rankin Inlet, and 80 km southwest of Chesterfield Inlet in the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut. The Approved mine plan includes open pit and underground mining methods for the development of the Tiriganiaq gold deposit, with two open pits (Tiriganiaq Pit 1 and Tiriganiaq Pit 2) and one underground mine.

This Borrow Pits and Quarries Management Plan describes selection, operations, and closure strategies for the borrow pits and quarries at the Meliadine Mine.

Borrow pits and quarries on Inuit Owned Lands require a quarry permit issued by the Kivalliq Inuit Association. Quarry permits on municipal land are administered by the Government of Nunavut Department of Community and Government Services on behalf of the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet. Other relevant regulations are mentioned in the Plan.

The following best management practices will be used in the selection, operation and closure of borrow pits and quarries for the Meliadine Mine:

- minimize the surface area of quarries and borrow pits, where possible;
- minimize quarry and borrow pit cuts, where possible;
- maintain the floor of the quarries and borrow pits slightly above the elevation of the surrounding area to promote drainage, to avoid creating quarry lakes, and to prevent permafrost degradation in borrow pits;
- prevent erosion and sedimentation through appropriate control measures;
- carry out ARD/ML testing and water quality monitoring in support of mitigation measures;
- protect archeological resources;
- verify that there are no raptor nests in or near quarries and borrow pits before beginning quarrying operations;
- maintain air quality through dust control/suppression;
- use progressive reclamation in closing quarries and borrow pits when no longer needed; and
- perform environmental inspections.

Quarry operations will use a “drill, blast, load, haul, dump” sequence, the final step being placement of quarried rock using a dozer. Some rock could be crushed to produce aggregate of various sizes. Wherever possible, borrow pit material will be ripped using a dozer. Standard drill and blast procedures may be used in instances where ripping is not possible.

Mitigation measures pertaining to archaeological resources and adjacent historical sites, attractions, and facilities within boundaries of Iqalugaajup Nunanga Territorial Park, and wildlife were developed and are described in the Plan. Dust, noise, and water quality monitoring related to the use of the

quarries and borrow pits will be carried out during the construction, operation, and closure phases of the Mine.

As a safety measure, rock berms will be placed 10 metres from the edge of a quarry and above any exposed high walls that are more than 2 metres in height where there is a risk of an all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile accidentally going over the edge.

Progressive reclamation will be carried out as much as practicable. With prudent initial design, the proposed quarries/borrow pits should require little reclamation. Reclaimed quarries and borrow pits will have gently sloping walls and positive drainage, wherever possible. Loose wall rock will be pulled to the quarry floor, and quarry entrances will be blocked with large boulders.

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version	Date	Section	Page	Revision	Author
1	December 2012			First draft of the Borrow Pits and Quarries Management Plan	John Witteman, Env. Consultant, Agnico Eagle
2	March 2013	1.2.2	3-4	More detail on Discovery access road	John Witteman, Env. Consultant, Agnico Eagle
3	April 2014			FEIS submission	
4	April 2015			Update document for the Class A Water Licence Application	John Witteman, Env. Consultant, Agnico Eagle
5	March 2017			2016 Comprehensive Review following completion of AWAR Construction	Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
		1.2.1	2	Addition of Table 1	
6	January 2018			Annual review	Alexandre Gauthier, Env. Tech Meliadine Project
7_NWB	January 2024	A yellow arrow in the right-hand margin indicates where updates have been made		Submitted to NWB as part of the Meliadine Mine Water Licence Amendment	Permitting Department



ACRONYMS

Agnico Eagle	Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
ARD/ML	Acid Rock Drainage/Metal Leaching
AWAR	All-weather Access Road
CGS	Department of Community and Government Services, GN
CH	Department of Culture and Heritage, GN
CIRNAC	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
CLEY	Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, GN
IOL	Inuit Owned Lands
KIA	Kivalliq Inuit Association
NIRB	Nunavut Impact Review Board
NWB	Nunavut Water Board
Park	Iqaluqaarjuup Nunanga Territorial Park
Project	Meliadine Gold Project

UNITS

km	kilometre
m	metres
m ³	cubic metre

SECTION 1 • INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The current mine plan consists of open pit and underground mining methods for the development of the Tiriganiaq gold deposit, with two open pits (Tiriganiaq Pit 1 and Tiriganiaq Pit 2) and one underground mine. The Application to amend the Water Licence includes completion of water licensing for approved components under Project Certificate No.006, which includes open pit mining at the Pump, F Zone, Wesmeg, and Discovery deposits to continue operations to 2031.

Borrow pits and quarries are defined by the type of granular material extracted and the method of extraction. Quarries consist of rock material that is typically extracted by digging, cutting, or blasting and yields large stones that may then need to be crushed (INAC 2009). Borrow pits consist of fine grained fill materials, such as sand or clay, that are normally used at a nearby site (INAC 2009).

1.2 Mine Components

1.2.1 Approved and Built Infrastructure

For construction of the AWAR, bypass road, access roads, storage/operation pad(s), Itivia laydown yard, Agnico Eagle utilized a series of quarry/borrow pit sites (as approved through the 2014 FEIS [Agnico Eagle 2014]). Table 1.1 provides an overview of the approved borrow pits and quarries, along with their status.

The road to Discovery and widening of AWAR are approved but not yet built. They will use the approved borrow pit and quarries as presented in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Approved Borrow Pits and Quarries

Issued By	Quarry permit	Quarries/borrow pits approved	Active (Y/N)
KIA	KVCA11Q01	B5	N
		B5A	N
		B6	Y
		R2	N
		R5	N
		B10	N
		B11A	N
		B12	Y
		B13	N
		B15	N
		B15A	N
		R19	N
KIA	KVCA07Q08	Tiriganiaq	N
		Westmeg	N
		Meliadine Esker	Y
		Emulsion Esker	N
GN	01-600-16	Site D	N
GN	01-600-17	Itivia Quarry	N

1.3 Quarry and Borrow Pit Extraction Methods

Quarry operations will use explosives. The design, size, and shape of the blasts are planned with safety being the foremost consideration. A predetermined pattern of drill holes are drilled to a depth not exceeding the overall depth of the quarry and filled with explosives. Prior to a blast, all personnel and equipment are moved to a safe distance from the blast area. The blast fragments (i.e., the blasted rock) is then loaded into haul or dump trucks using either a loader or an hydraulic shovel. The truck drives to the end of the road (or other construction area) where the rock is dumped. The rock is then pushed into place using a dozer. This sequence is called a “drill, blast, load, haul, dump” sequence.

Some rock can be moved to a crusher to produce aggregate of various sizes. The crusher is located as far from water as possible and where it is best shielded from the prevailing wind, preferably behind a high wall in a quarry so as to reduce the quantity of wind-blown dust and to have as much dust as possible fall within the boundaries of the quarry.

Wherever possible, borrow pit material will be ripped using a dozer. This loosens the material and allows it to be picked up using a loader or an hydraulic shovel. Standard drill and blast procedures may be used in instances where ripping is not possible. The sequence of steps under this circumstance follows that for rock quarries.

1.4 Related Documents

The following documents provided input to the Borrow Pits and Quarries Management Plan:

- Explosives Management Plan;
- Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan;
- Roads Management Plan;
- Water Management Plan;
- Blast Monitoring Plan;
- Cultural and Heritage Resources Protection Plan;
- Air Quality Monitoring Plan; and
- Occupational Health and Safety Plan.

The Borrow Pits and Quarries Management Plan is part of the Environmental Management and Protection Plan for the Mine.

1.5 Regulatory Setting

The Meliadine Mine is located on IOL, with some components located within the municipality of Rankin Inlet. This includes all borrow pits and quarries exclusively used in building and maintaining the AWAR. As well, construction of the bypass road and the fuel farm and laydown at Itivia required granular material. Although federal requirements do not apply, the *Northern Land Use Guidelines, Pits and Quarries* prepared by Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada (INAC 2009; which in 2017 split into Services Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs) provides useful guidance in establishing and operating borrow pits and quarries in an Arctic setting.

In building the AWAR, borrow pits and rock quarries on IOL required a quarry permit issued by the KIA. Quarry permits from the KIA include terms and conditions specifying how operations are to be conducted.

Quarry permits on municipal land are administered by the Government of Nunavut Department of Community and Government Services (CGS) on behalf of the hamlet of Rankin Inlet. When the hamlet council passes a resolution approving the quarry and/or borrow pit, the permit is issued by CGS. If Agnico Eagle purchases materials from existing quarries and borrow pits in the hamlet for the construction of the bypass road and the Itivia laydown, permits would not be required in this instance.

The Department of Culture and Heritage (CH) administers the archaeology permitting process for Nunavut. Archaeological surveys are undertaken in advance of borrow pit and quarry selection to ensure all archaeological sites are identified and avoided if possible. If the sites cannot be avoided, they are mitigated with the approval of CH.

The Nunavut *Wildlife Act and Regulations* will apply as raptors nesting close to the AWAR and quarries/borrow pits may be disturbed, or raptors may nest in the quarries and/or borrow pits upon the completion of their use.

Land animals may also be disturbed by the quarrying activities. The quarries and possibly the borrow pits in some instances will require the use of explosives. The activities will have to comply with the *Explosive Use Act and Regulations*, and the *Mine Health and Safety Act and Regulations*. The latter is administered by the Worker's Safety and Compensation Commission.

Use of rock and granular material from the quarries and borrow pits could introduce waste to water, and will require a water licence from the NWB under the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and associated water regulations. The federal *Fisheries Act* will apply if runoff water containing deleterious substances flow from the quarries/borrow pits into fish bearing waters.

Use of explosives at quarries could lead to fish destruction or to harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. The federal *Fisheries Act* will apply if this was to occur.

SECTION 2 • QUARRIES AND BORROW PITS MITIGATION MEASURES

The ranking of mitigation options is as follows:

- **Avoidance** – using an alternate site or technology to avoid the adverse effect all together. This is the most desirable;
- **Minimization** – taking actions to minimize and/or contain effects to the maximum extent possible during engineering design, pre-development, construction, operations, and closure;
- **Rectification** – taking actions to rehabilitate or restore the affected environment after the fact; and
- **Compensation** – this is used as a last resort to offset adverse environmental effects. This is the least desirable.

Best management practices will employ the following general mitigation measures for the quarries and borrow pits:

- minimize the surface area of quarries and borrow pits where possible;
- minimize rock and borrow pit cuts where possible;
- maintain the floor of the quarries and borrow pits slightly above the elevation of the surrounding area to promote drainage, to avoid creating quarry lakes, and to prevent permafrost degradation in borrow pits;
- prevent erosion and sedimentation through appropriate control measures;
- carry out ARD/ML testing and water quality monitoring in support of mitigation measures;
- protect archeological resources;
- verify that there are no raptor nests in or near quarries and borrow pits before beginning quarrying operations;
- maintain air, water, and sediment quality through dust control/suppression;
- use progressive reclamation in closing quarries and borrow pits no longer needed; and
- perform environmental inspections.

2.1 Acid Rock Drainage and Metal Leaching

Sampling and testing will be completed prior to use of any quarry or borrow pit to reduce the risk of ARD/ML. Additional measures will be used while the quarries and borrow pits are operational. If ARD/ML materials are found, these materials will not be used for construction and the area will be covered with a minimum two metre thick layer of non-acid generating borrow material to encapsulate it below the active layer.

The sampling and testing will confirm that the best available materials are being used in constructing the access roads.

The same procedures will be used should any new quarry and/or borrow pit be developed.

2.2 Management of Water Originating from Quarries and Borrow Pits

While ARD/ML testing is a measure to avoid using questionable materials, water quality monitoring of seeps from quarries and borrow pits provides information on possible impacts on the environment (e.g., water and sediment quality) should the water reach any nearby waterbodies. A buffer of at least 31 m of undisturbed land will be maintained between quarries/borrow pits and waterbodies when practicable. If not possible, Agnico Eagle will seek approval from the Board. Best management practices will prevent direct drainage of the quarry to watercourses. However, any significant seeps originating from the borrow pits or rock quarries likely to reach receiving waters will be sampled and analysed for a full suite of water quality parameters. Any problematic water will be directed away from waterbodies, or held if possible. If necessary, silt curtains and/or straw logs will be used to control suspended sediments in water seeping from the quarries/borrow pits.

Although erosion is not expected to originate from water flow from the quarries/borrow pits, any evidence of erosion will be repaired by placing rip-rap over the affected area, and measures will be taken to reduce the velocity of the water with, for example, silt curtains, straw logs, or small check dams.

2.3 Archaeological Resources

If any potential archaeological site is identified during the operation of any quarry/borrow pit, work will stop, a professional archaeologist will be consulted, and CH will be informed of the discovery.

All equipment will remain within the boundaries of the quarries/borrow pits to ensure any nearby archaeological site is not inadvertently damaged.

Before any new quarry/borrow pit is selected, it will be surveyed for archaeological resources by a professional archaeologist registered in Nunavut. Sites with archaeological resources present will not be selected if there is a similar site devoid of archaeological resources nearby.

2.4 Iqaluqaarjuup Nunanga Territorial Park

Quarries and borrow pits will not be developed in or near the Iqaluqaarjuup Nunanga Territorial Park (the Park). Rock quarry R19 and borrow pit B15 are the closest to the Park. Both are more than 1 km from the Park boundary and quarry R19 and B15 is closed and rehabilitated

2.5 Dust Control

Dust will be generated as part of borrow pit operation. Transport of material from the quarries/borrow pits will be subject to speed limit restrictions to help reduce dust.

Dust monitoring is occurring along the AWAR and between the AWAR and the Park.

2.6 Ground Ice and Permafrost Protection

The borrow pits¹ sites selected are from glaciofluvial deposits and weathered bedrock deposits located in well-drained areas. All have positive topography rising above the local setting. These types of granular deposits were selected because they are largely free of ground ice, thereby minimizing possible thaw settlement and melting ground ice, which can result in erosion, slumping of side slopes, and an altered landscape that extends beyond the borrow pit. Should this happen, the area will be monitored and, if necessary, stabilized by covering the affected land with approximately 2 m of rock or other granular material. This reclamation effort would allow the permafrost to move up into the material covering the area and stop any remaining ground ice from melting. Inspections of quarries/borrow pits will continue after their closure at the end of Mine predevelopment and construction.

Any significant seeps originating from the borrow pits as a result of ground ice, permafrost melting, or from precipitation events will be monitored if the water is likely to reach receiving waters².

¹ Quarry sites are expected to be free of ground ice and should not release any water should the permafrost melt.

² Shallow, standing water will not be collected as it poses little risk to the receiving environment.

SECTION 3 • PROGRESSIVE RECLAMATION STRATEGY

The Mine's reclamation objective is to avoid or minimize negative environmental effects wherever possible, practice progressive reclamation, and, upon closure, return negatively impacted areas to productive and lasting use by wildlife and humans. Reclaimed areas will be chemically and physically stable, and should ultimately support the same functions as surrounding undisturbed land. Because of the proximity to Rankin Inlet, particular attention will be paid to ensuring that reclaimed areas are safe for future traditional use.

A practical, cost-effective approach will be central to the closure and reclamation of the borrow pits and quarries. The intent is to pursue progressive reclamation to return areas to natural conditions and avoid long-term care and maintenance requirements. Most quarries and borrow pits will no longer be needed following the completion of construction, although several quarries will remain open to support ongoing maintenance and repair of the AWAR³. Using best management practices, borrow pits and quarries no longer in use will be reclaimed by stabilizing disturbed land surfaces, which will promote natural re-vegetation.

The reclaimed quarries and borrow pits will have gently sloping walls and positive drainage wherever possible. With prudent initial design, the quarries/borrow pits should require little reclamation. Loose wall rock will be pulled to the floor of the quarry, and the quarry entrance will be blocked with large boulders. For the interim until the quarries and borrow pits are reclaimed, rock berms will be placed 10 m from the edge of the quarry/borrow pits and above any exposed high walls that are more than 2 m in height where there is a risk of an all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile accidentally going over the edge.

Should acid-generating bedrock be exposed in borrow pit/quarry, these areas will be covered with a minimum of a 2 m thick layer of non-acid generating soil or rock. Water will be directed away from the area.

³ A small number will remain active to store and/or supply crushed rock and/or granular material for ongoing road maintenance.

REFERENCES

Agnico Eagle. 2014. Meliadine Gold Project, Nunavut. Final Environmental Impact Statement. Submitted to the Nunavut Impact Review Board. April 2014. Golder (Golder Associates Ltd.). 2010. Geochemical Assessment of Potential Road Construction Material, Meliadine Golder Project, Nunavut. Submitted to Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited. December 2010.

INAC (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada). 2009. Northern Land Use Guidelines, Pits and Quarries.