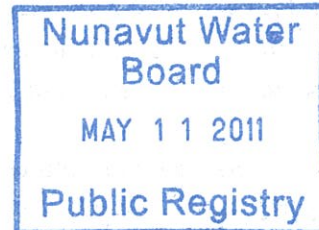




26 April 2011

Ms. Stephanie Autut
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0



RE: Meliadine Gold Project: Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited: Part 5 Review

Dear Ms. Autut,

Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited (AEM) is proposing to construct, operate and decommission a gold mine, known as the Meliadine Gold Project (Project) 25 km north of Rankin Inlet and 80 km south of Chesterfield Inlet in the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut. The proposed Project site is located on Inuit Owned Land in an area that has not undergone any previous mining or industrial development. The Project is over 400 km north of the tree line and is 285 km southeast of the nearest active, large-scale industrial development, AEM's Meadowbank Gold Mine.

The Meliadine Gold Project will use standard, widely accepted open pit and underground mining methods to access and extract gold bearing rock, and will use conventional milling methods to release the gold from the host rock.

The proposed Project would use existing infrastructure in the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet as much as possible, but only to the extent that the normal long term, day-to-day operation of the hamlet is not adversely impacted. Such infrastructure would include the barge off-loading area (Itivia), the airport, and the services and/or facilities of various local businesses. Off-site mine infrastructure such as a tank farm and laydown area will need to be constructed in the hamlet.

The combination of the Project going ahead and the use of the hamlet's infrastructure, labour force and businesses will have a profound socioeconomic impact on Rankin Inlet and, to a lesser extent, on other Kivalliq communities. As with all projects of this type, environmental impacts can be significant unless appropriate mitigation and preventative measures are identified and implemented at all stages of the Project. Technical knowledge from government departments, other agencies and interveners, combined with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit can provide insight on how to recognise adverse effects and how they might be controlled, reduced or eliminated. This is a central benefit of an environmental assessment process can lead to improvements in the design and operation of our proposed Project.

We view the environmental assessment process in part as a forum for the interchange of information, particularly for the Inuit who have a strong tradition of oral communication in decision making and reaching consensus. With NIRB facilitating community and technical meetings and holding public hearings as part of the process, AEM and other parties can exchange information and opinions concerning the Project's environmental and socio-economic effects. We recognise that the Project has to sustain and protect the environment, Inuit culture and traditions while at the same time providing benefits and long term sustainable jobs to the Kivalliq region.

Due to the size and nature of the proposed Project and the necessary scrutiny that such projects require, AEM believes a Part 5 review, as referenced in Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, is required and requests the Nunavut Impact Review Board undertake such a review of the Meliadine Gold Project.

Furthermore, AEM supports the Coordinated Framework approach to the regulatory process at the time. While details are not yet clearly understood on how exactly this coordinated process will take place, we feel the early participation of the Nunavut Water Board enhances the overall process. The technical support of the NWB to the NIRB should clarify and help resolve technical issues that might arise throughout the EA process, some of which would be relevant to the regulatory process as it moves forward.

It is understood the review process and the subsequent regulatory process will take a certain length of time to complete. During the interim, AEM will continue its exploration activities on the mineral claims shown in Figure 1.1 of the attached Project Description. The exploration will serve two purposes: to find new mineral resources and to confirm known mineral resources. For the latter, this will involve diamond drilling from the surface as well as underground exploration where the existing decline will be advanced to ore lodes found at greater depth. Both surface drilling and underground exploration are necessary to increase certainty in the mineral resources and proposed future mining and milling methods.

Although the larger part of the biophysical baseline information has been collected, we are undertaking a socio-economic and IQ baseline collection program in 2011 for inclusion in the draft EIS as well as additional baseline environmental data collection found necessary as a result of a gap analysis. AEM will be continuing collection of geotechnical information in the vicinity of the ore deposits, the proposed Tailings Impoundment Area, the proposed location for all site infrastructure, within Rankin Inlet where various mine infrastructure is proposed, and along the proposed spur roads to the F Zone, Wolf, Pump, Westmeg and Discovery gold deposits.

Lastly, while baseline archaeology is felt to be sufficient for the purposes of the draft EIS, there are a number of sites where mitigation will be undertaken this summer. Most of the sites are located where future infrastructure is proposed. Adaptive management is being applied at this point to safeguard these heritage resources and to ensure that no archaeology information is lost should the sites be inadvertently disturbed.

In closing, AEM looks forward to working with the Nunavut Impact Review Board in advancing the Meliadine Gold Project from exploration to an operating gold mine benefiting the Kivalliq Region, Nunavut, and Canada.

Should you have any questions or concerns with our submission, please do not hesitate in calling me or John Witteman at 819 277 5444 or jwitteman@agnico-eagle.com.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Witteman" followed by a stylized flourish or initials.

Eric M. Lamontagne
Project Manager
Meliadine Gold Project

Cc. John Witteman, Environmental Consultant
Nunavut Water Board
Nunavut Planning Commission
Veronica Tattuinee, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Lasha Young, Golder Associates
Josée Noël, Sylvain Doire - Environmental Coordinator, AEM