



NIRB File No. 11EN034
KIA File No.: KVLPL11D01

June 10, 2011

John Witteman
Environmental and Regulatory Consultant
Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
P.O. Box 99
Rankin Inlet, NU X0C 0G0

Via email: john.witteman@agnico-eagle.com

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for AEM's "Meliadine Gold Mine" project proposal

Dear John Witteman:

On May 4, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM) "Meliadine Gold Mine" project proposal (the Project) directly from AEM. On May 3, 2011 the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) referred the Project to the NIRB for screening pursuant to Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). Finally, on June 8, 2011 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission and commenced screening the Project. The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number 11EN034.

This proposed mining and milling development is located in the Kivalliq Region approximately 24 kilometres northwest of Rankin Inlet. AEM is proposing to develop and operate a medium to large gold mine and mill which would process up to 15,000 tonnes of ore per day. The mine would be expected to combine both open pit and underground mining techniques at six separate deposits: Tiriganiaq, F Zone, Wolf, Pump, Wesmeg and Discovery. AEM anticipates that construction would take approximately two (2) years, followed by ten (10) years of mine operations and a period of three (3) years for reclamation and monitoring.

The following is a *summary* of the main project activities and components associated with the Meliadine Gold Project Proposal:

- Open pit mining and underground mining at Tiriganiaq, F zone, Discovery, Wesmeg, Wolf and Pump;
- Diking and dewatering of lakes at Tiriganiaq and F zone;
- Expansion of existing infrastructure at Tiriganiaq site from the underground exploration and bulk sampling program (NIRB No. 07EN044 and 10EA018);
- Utilization of clean waste rock for the construction of haul roads, pads, berms, etc.;
- Construction of ore storage pads at satellite mines;

- Utilization of proposed all-weather road from Rankin Inlet to Meliadine area (Currently being screened by the NIRB under File No. 11RN017);
- Expansion of all-weather road to satellite mines;
- Transportation of ore from satellite mines to Tiriganiaq for processing;
- Construction of a mill facility at Tiriganiaq;
- On site processing of ore at up to 15,000 tonnes per day;
- Construction of tailings management facilities;
- Construction of bulk fuel storage facilities at Tiriganiaq and Rankin Inlet;
- Construction of tankfarms at F zone and Discovery;
- Transportation, storage and on-site manufacture of explosives;
- Transportation and storage of chemicals and hazardous materials;
- Construction of fresh water treatment (and storage), wastewater treatment and sewage treatment facilities;
- Withdrawal of freshwater from Meliadine Lake and other unnamed lakes,;
- Discharge of treated effluent into the receiving environment;
- Construction an accommodations complex for up to 650 beds;
- Potential expansion of existing camp facilities to accommodate up to 250 personnel and construction of an additional temporary camp to support construction activities;
- Construction of additional site infrastructure to support the mine, including warehouses, maintenance shops, administration complexes and offices, dry facilities, laydown areas, and a mixing plant for cement slurry and/or cement paste;
- Construction of support facilities at Rankin Inlet including wharf, storage facility and laydown area;
- Construction of a power plant at the Meliadine site or a power plant at Rankin Inlet with transmission lines extending to the Meliadine site;
- Marine shipment of reagents, fuel and supplies to a storage facility at Rankin Inlet and transfer via all-weather road to the Tiriganiaq site;
- Construction of solid waste management and incineration of domestic wastes; and
- Decommissioning and reclamation activities.

Information pertaining to the NIRB's previous screenings for underground exploration and bulk sampling activities (NIRB No. 07EN044 and 10EA018) at AEM's Meliadine properties can be found at the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/>

Information pertaining to the NIRB's current screening for AEM's all-weather road project proposal (NIRB No. 11RN017) in support of the Meliadine underground exploration and bulk sampling program can be found at the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/11RN017-AEM%20Meliadine%20All%20Weather%20Road/>

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's ftp site at <http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/11EN034-AEM-Meliadine%20Gold%20Mining%20Project/> including:

- *Meliadine Gold Project Description*

- *NIRB Part 1 Summary Application Form in English and Inuktitut as part of Project Description*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut as part of Project Description*
- *Maps*
- *NPC Conformity Determination*
- *Aquatic Synthesis Report*
- *Kivalliq Inuit Association Land Application*
- *Quality Assurance and Quality control Plan*
- *Reclamation and Closure Plan*
- *Spill Plan*
- *Static testing Report*
- *Terrestrial Baseline Synthesis Report*
- *Waste Management Plan*
- *Waste Rock Management Plan*
- *Water Management Plan*

Pursuant to Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), the NIRB shall proceed to screen this project proposal. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process and will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the above ftp site for public access.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by this project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 4, 2011**.

Parties are also advised that, within its application materials, AEM has indicated it anticipates that the results of the screening of the Project will be a determination that the Project has significant impact potential and will therefore require a Review under Part 5 or 6 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic and socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please send your comments to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact myself at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kelli Gillard B.Sc., P.Ag.
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
 Eric M. Lamontagne, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
 Larry Connell, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
 Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
 Ralph Ruediger, Government of Nunavut, Community & Government Services
 Derrick Moggy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
 Doug Soloway, Transport Canada
 Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
 Jody Kusugak, Nunavut Airport Division
 Hamlet of Rankin Inlet
 Rob Johnstone, Natural Resources Canada
 Jeff Mercer, Manager Lands
 Carey Ogilvie, Environment Canada

Enclosures (2): Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)