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By Licensing Administrative Assistant at 3:12 pm, Nov 10, 2011

NIRB File No. 11MN034
NWB File No.: 2AM-MEL----

November 9, 2011

To: Meliadine Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Revised Draft Scope and Draft Guidelines for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the "Meliadine Gold" project proposal

Dear Parties:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) is currently assessing Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM or the Proponent) "Meliadine Gold" project proposal (the Project) pursuant to Part 5 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

Section 12.5.2, NLCA states:

"...The NIRB shall, upon soliciting any advice it considers appropriate, issue guidelines to the proponent for the preparation of an impact statement. It is the responsibility of the proponent to prepare an impact statement in accordance with any guidelines established by NIRB."

In order to scope the Project and identify the factors to be assessed in the context of spatial and temporal scales at various Project stages, the NIRB has commenced an extensive public review process. On October 7, 2011 the NIRB issued the *Draft Scope* of the Meliadine Gold project and requested that parties provide comments to the NIRB based upon their jurisdictions and areas of expertise. Comments were received from the following parties on or before October 28, 2011:

- Kivalliq Inuit Association
- Government of Nunavut
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Environment Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Transport Canada

As per these comments, the NIRB has developed a Revised *Draft Scope* for the Project.

Pursuant to Section 12.5.2 of the NLCA, the Board has also compiled the enclosed *Draft* Guidelines for the Proponent's preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Meliadine project.

The NIRB's initial development of the *Draft* EIS Guidelines involved an assessment of the project proposal as submitted by AEM in September 29, 2011 and consideration of the direction provided by section 12.5.2 of the NLCA, as well as initial comments provided by parties as outlined above.

As part of the public consultation on the scope of the Project and the factors to be included within the EIS Guidelines for the Meliadine Gold project, the NIRB will be conducting public scoping meetings from November 13 to November 30, 2011 in all seven Kivalliq communities which may be potentially impacted by the Project (Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, Arviat, Repulse Bay, Coral Harbour and Baker Lake). A detailed summary report of the public scoping meetings will be prepared and released to the public once the scoping sessions have been completed.

The Revised *Draft* Scope and the *Draft* EIS Guidelines as well as all comment submissions and other materials relating to the NIRB's scoping process are available on the NIRB's ftp site at:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/11MN034-AEM%20MELIADINE/2-REVIEW/04-SCOPING%20%26%20GUIDELINES/>

By copy of this letter, the Board requests that interested parties and members of the public review the enclosed Revised *Draft* Scope and *Draft* EIS Guidelines and provide comments to the NIRB based on their areas of jurisdiction and/or expertise on or before **December 8, 2011**.

All parties are asked to ensure that their comments identify the issue(s) of concern, include a clear rationale of the issue's importance to the environmental assessment of the Project and identify any items that should be included and that are associated with the issue of concern. Parties are asked to reference the page, section, paragraph and item numbers of the *Draft* EIS Guidelines where relevant. Parties are also asked to focus their comments on Part II (Sections 4 through 9) of the *Draft* EIS Guidelines.

The comments received will be taken into account during the NIRB's finalization of the Scope and revision of the *Draft* EIS Guidelines. At the same time, the Board may determine whether a workshop to facilitate further development the EIS Guidelines is necessary.

Please forward all comments to the NIRB's Environmental Administrators by email at info@nirb.ca via fax at (867) 983-2594.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the NIRB's Review of the Meliadine Gold project, please contact Kelli Gillard, Technical Advisor, at kgillard@nirb.ca or by phone at (867) 983-4619.

Sincerely,



Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services

cc: The Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
Larry Connell, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
John Witterman, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
Eric Lamontagne, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
Dionne Filiatrault, Nunavut Water Board

Enclosures: Revised *Draft* Scope List for the NIRB's Assessment of the Meliadine Gold Project (November 9, 2011)
Draft Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Gold Project (November 9, 2011)