



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

December 16, 2011

To: Meliadine Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Final Scope, Revised Draft Guidelines, and Guidelines Workshop for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project

Dear Parties:

On November 9, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) distributed a request for public comments and advice on the Revised *Draft* Scope for the assessment of Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (the Proponent) Meliadine Gold Mine project (the Project), as well as for the *Draft* Guidelines for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project. Comment submissions were received by the NIRB on or before December 8, 2011 and have since been incorporated into these documents where appropriate. An enclosed Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines Comment Table is meant to accompany the Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines as a reference to how and where comments were addressed and/or incorporated, where applicable. The Final Scope List has also been updated to incorporate comments where applicable, and has been enclosed for the information of parties.

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

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

COMMENT REQUEST

It is the NIRB's intention that the EIS Guidelines will provide instruction to the Proponent for its preparation of an EIS which addresses the information requirements of the NIRB and the public in order to allow for a thorough impact assessment of the proposed project. The NIRB asks that interested parties and responsible authorities review the enclosed Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines and provide comments to the Board based on their area of expertise and/or mandate on or before **Friday January 20, 2012**.

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 that is associated with the issue of concern. Parties are asked to reference the page, section, paragraph and item numbers of the Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines where relevant.

EIS GUIDELINES WORKSHOP

The NIRB will be hosting a development workshop prior to finalizing and issuing the EIS guidelines for the Project. The workshop will be held at the Siniktarvik Hotel and Conference Centre in Rankin Inlet on January 31 and February 1, 2012 and will allow for discussion of outstanding issues pertaining to the Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines. Active participation by parties with technical expertise and advice to offer to the NIRB will help to ensure these Final EIS Guidelines provide the Proponent with clear direction for its creation of an EIS submission which will address the extensive information requirements of the public review process for the Project. The NIRB anticipates circulating a draft agenda to parties with details on the structure and format of the meetings following the receipt of comments to the Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines in January.

The Board asks that parties planning to attend the EIS Guidelines development workshop include with their comment submissions, an indication of the number of planned representatives to be in attendance, as well as the key issues they wish to have included on the agenda for discussion. Parties are asked to limit their planned participants to required individuals only, as limited seating is available for each group during the workshop.

NEXT STEPS

The NIRB has enclosed an updated review process map for the Meliadine project for the information of parties.

The NIRB invites interested parties to submit comments on the Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines and information regarding the upcoming EIS Guidelines development workshop via email at info@nirb.ca or via fax at (867) 983-2594 by **January 20, 2012**.

If you have any questions regarding the NIRB's Review of the Meliadine Gold Mine project, please contact me directly at kgillard@nirb.ca or (867) 983-4619.

Sincerely,



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

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

Enclosed (4): Final Scope List for the NIRB's Assessment of the Agnico-Eagle Ltd.'s Meliadine Gold Mine
(December 16, 2011)
Revised *Draft* Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Agnico-
Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Gold Mine Project
Revised *Draft* EIS Guidelines Comment Table (December 16, 2011)
Review Process Map (December 16, 2011)