



NIRB File No. 11MN034

February 20, 2012

Larry Connell, Corporate Director of Sustainable Development
Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
145 King Street East, Suite 400
Toronto, ON M5C 2Y7

Sent via email: lconnell@agnico-eagle.com

Re: Guidelines for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the "Meliadine Gold Mine" project

Dear Larry Connell:

The enclosed guidelines are issued by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM; the Proponent) preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Meliadine Gold Mine project (NIRB File No. 11MN034). Pursuant to Section 12.5.2 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the Proponent is responsible to prepare an EIS in accordance with the guidelines issued by the NIRB. The EIS developed in accordance with these guidelines will serve as the basis for the NIRB's Review of the Project, and will enable the Board and interested parties to understand and assess the potential for Project-related ecosystemic and socio-economic effects.

Please be advised that the NIRB will require hard copies of the Proponent's future *draft* EIS submission to be sent to the following address:

Nunavut Impact Review Board
Technical Services Dept.
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

*3 copies of the EIS with all appendices;
9 copies of the main EIS document only*

As a NIRB – Nunavut Water Board (NWB) coordinated process was requested for the NIRB's Review of the Meliadine Gold Mine project and subsequent water licensing, the current EIS Guidelines include an Appendix which outlines the requirements of AEM's *Draft* water licence application, to be included with its future *draft* EIS submission. As such, the Proponent is required to submit hard copies of the future *draft* EIS submission to the following NWB addresses:

Nunavut Water Board
Attn: Technical Services Dept.

1 copy of the EIS with all appendices

P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Nunavut Water Board
Attn: Director, Technical Services
Contact for delivery address

1 copy of the EIS with all appendices

The NIRB respectfully requests that the Proponent review the enclosed guidelines and advise the Board of its anticipated date for submission of a *draft* EIS at its earliest convenience.

The Proponent is required to submit the aforementioned copies of the *draft* EIS to the NIRB and NWB concurrently or as close to the same date as possible to allow the Boards to co-ordinate their respective processes in alignment with the coordinated approach requested by AEM. The Proponent should note that next steps in the NIRB's Review process may not commence until both agencies have received copies as indicated. The Proponent is encouraged to follow up with the NIRB and NWB to ensure all copies of the *draft* EIS have been received as requested.

Please be advised that it is the Proponent's responsibility to supply authorities responsible for potentially authorizing this proposed Project with sufficient hard copies of the future *draft* EIS submission for review purposes. The NIRB will distribute correspondence to its public distribution list requesting that all parties which might require a hard copy of the future *draft* EIS supply the NIRB with mailing addresses and the required number of copies, which the NIRB will then forward to the Proponent.

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Kelli Gillard, Technical Advisor, at kgillard@nirb.ca or (867) 983-4619.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: The Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
Meliadine Distribution List

Enclosed: Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s
Meliadine Gold Mine project – NIRB File 11MN034 (*February 20, 2012*)