



NIRB File No. 11MN034

January 28, 2013

Stephane Robert
Manager, Regulatory Affairs Nunavut
Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
93, Rue Arseneault Bureau 202
Val d'Or, QC J9P 0E9

Sent via email: stephane.robert@agnico-eagle.com

Re: Receipt of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Meliadine Gold Mine" project

Dear Stephane Robert:

On January 25, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM or Proponent) *Draft* Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) submission for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project. The DEIS submission can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/11MN034-AEM%20MELIADINE/2-REVIEW/06-DRAFT%20EIS/02-DEIS/>

The Board is now commencing an internal review of the DEIS to determine whether the submission conforms to the NIRB's EIS Guidelines as issued to AEM by the Board on February 20, 2012¹. The Board's conformity review is a presence or absence analysis of the required information and is not meant to evaluate the quality of the information presented. However, during the course of its conformity review the NIRB may also identify significant deficiencies encountered within the DEIS submission.

If the DEIS submission is found to conform with the NIRB's EIS Guidelines, the Board will formally accept the submission and will provide public notice regarding the commencement of a technical review period in accordance with the NIRB's Rules of Procedure.² The technical

¹ "Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Agnico-Eagle Resources Ltd.'s Meliadine Gold Mine project (NIRB File No. 11MN034)" issued by the NIRB, February 2012.

² NIRB Rules of Procedure, September 3, 2009. Available from the NIRB's online public registry at <http://ftp.nirb.ca/06-RULES/>.

review period allows for a detailed review of the DEIS and provides interested parties with an opportunity to analyze the quality of the information presented by the Proponent. During the initial stage of the technical review period, interested parties will be invited to submit requests for additional information (i.e., Information Requests) as may be required to facilitate the development of technical review comments for the Board's consideration.

Further information regarding the subsequent steps of the NIRB's Review of the Meliadine Gold Mine project will be communicated to all parties upon acceptance of the DEIS. Parties are also invited to consult the Board's "Guide 5: Guide to the NIRB Review Process" for a general overview of the NIRB's Review timeline. The Board's Guide 5 is available from the NIRB's online registry at the following location: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/04-GUIDES/>.

At this time, the Board anticipates completing the internal conformity review and providing an indication as to the acceptability of AEM's DEIS submission by **February 11, 2013**.

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

Sincerely,



Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Meliadine Distribution List