



NIRB File No.: 11MN034

March 6, 2013

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

Via email: stephane.robert@agnico-eagle.com

RE: Supplemental Information to the NIRB's EIS Guidelines in response to Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Scope change for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project

Dear Stéphane Robert:

On February 13 and 19, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received correspondence from Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. (AEM or the Proponent) which clarified the Scope of the Meliadine Gold Mine Project (the Project) currently under Review by the Board (File No. 11MN034). On February 26, 2013 the NIRB acknowledged the clarification to the project scope, and indicated that it would be providing supplemental information to the Guidelines as were originally issued by the Board on February 20, 2012 for the Proponent's preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Within its recent correspondence, AEM has confirmed that the following activities had been included within the Proponent's understanding of the Scope of the Meliadine Gold Mine Project:

- The development, construction, operation, decommissioning, reclamation and post-closure monitoring of the Pump and Discovery Deposits which would include open pit mines, waste rock storage areas, associated access and haul roads, water management structures and other supporting infrastructure;
- The construction, operation and decommissioning and reclamation of a haul road between the proposed Tiriganiaq mill site and the Discovery deposit site; haul road would serve primarily as a mine haul road with a short section shared with the public and the two types of traffic separated by a safety barrier; and
- The construction, operation, decommissioning, reclamation of a biopile treatment area for the on-site treatment of soil and rock contaminated with light hydrocarbons.

The NIRB is of the understanding that the addition of these Project components represents a modification to the Scope of the Project as issued on February 20, 2012¹. Following an internal review of the original Scope List for the Project and the Guidelines for the Preparation of an EIS (EIS Guidelines) that were issued to AEM by the NIRB on February 20, 2012, it is the NIRB's opinion that the proposed addition of the above components and activities to the Project Scope does not significantly impact upon the Board's assessment of the Meliadine Project to date, and as such, that a significant revision of the previously issued EIS Guidelines is not required. However, in recognition of AEM's request to have the additional components included within the Project Scope, the NIRB has revised the original Project scope and is issuing the Updated Scope for the Meliadine Project, as well as providing the following direction to AEM to supplement the EIS Guidelines issued pursuant to NLCA Section 12.5.2 and which must be addressed to a sufficient level of detail within the Proponent's Draft EIS for the Meliadine Gold Project.

Supplemental Information

It is the NIRB's expectation that the additional project activities as described within AEM's February 13 and 19, 2013 correspondences will be addressed throughout the Draft EIS, particularly within the following sections:

- Project Components and Activities (Section 6.0)
- Project Design (Section 6.1)
- Alternatives (Section 6.4)
- Detailed Project Description (Section 6.6)
- Borrow Pits and Quarry Sites (Section 6.6.7)
- Power Generation (Section 6.6.8)
- Fuel and Explosives Facilities (Section 6.6.9)
- Other Project Facilities and Infrastructure (Section 6.6.11)
- Baseline Information (Section 7.3)
- Cumulative Effects Assessment (Section 7.11)
- Impact Assessment (Section 8.1)
- Biophysical Environmental Plans (Section 9.4)
- Mine Closure and Reclamation plan (Section 9.6)
- Fuel Management Plan (section 9.4.2)
- Borrow Pits and Quarry Management Plan (Section 9.4.12)
- Explosives Management Plan (Section 9.4.13)

Specific to the proposed use of a biopile treatment facility to address hydrocarbon contaminated soils and the proposed mine haul road between the Discovery deposit and Tiriganiaq mill site

¹ Guidelines for the Proponent's Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Project, Appendix B (February 20, 2012) available at: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/11MN034-AEM%20MELIADINE/2-REVIEW/04-SCOPING%20%26%20GUIDELINES/02-EIS%20GUIDELINES/04-FINAL/>.

(Discovery spur road), the NIRB expects that AEM's Draft EIS will, at a minimum, address the following:

- **Waste Management Facilities (Section 6.6.3)**
 - Discuss the biopile treatment facility including proposed construction, operation, monitoring, and reclamation; and
 - Provide an operations plan for the biopile treatment facility.
- **Ground Transportation and Associated Water Crossings (Section 6.6.4)**
 - Clearly identify the length and location of the spur road and provide details regarding its connection to the all-weather road from Rankin Inlet to the Tiriganiaq site;
 - Explain the design of the expanded Discovery spur road;
 - Discuss alternatives to the routing of the Discovery spur road;
 - Discuss plans for public and mine haul traffic operations on the Discovery spur road (including simultaneous use, closure or restricted periods, traffic controls, etc.), including a discussion of the proposed safety barrier design, and an explanation of its proposed use;
 - Discuss road use at the junction of the Discovery spur road with the road to the Tiriganiaq mill site;
 - Discuss public and mine haul use and traffic along the Discovery spur road during all seasons;
 - Discuss plans to control noise and dust along the Discovery spur road;
 - Discuss any impact that vibrations from mine haul trucks or traffic along the Discovery spur road will have upon the surrounding environment; and
 - Discuss all weather road maintenance during all seasons (include Discovery spur road in this discussion).
- **Road Management Plan (Section 9.4.10)**
 - Discuss general expectations for public and mine traffic interactions and/or combined use; and
 - Discuss safety precautions to be in place along the spur road in the event of an incident, accident or other event requiring mitigation or response.

In addition to those specific sections noted above, the NIRB expects that AEM's Draft EIS will address the inclusion of a biopile treatment facility as well as the Discovery spur road in any other sections where this information is necessary to facilitate an effective and thorough public assessment of the Meliadine Project.

EIS Submission

As you are aware, the Draft EIS submitted January 25, 2013 was deemed not to conform when assessed against the EIS Guidelines as issued for the Project on February 12, 2012. The NIRB expects that in addition to addressing those items as requested through the Board's conformity review, AEM's resubmission of its Draft EIS for the Project will demonstrate its consideration

of the supplemental guidance provided above in order to address the additional project activities as identified and included within the Updated Scope for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project.

If you have any questions regarding this supplemental information or require clarification on this matter, please contact Amanda Hanson, the NIRB's Director of Technical Services, at ahanson@nirb.ca or 867-983-4615.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Meliadine Distribution List

Enclosed: Updated Project Scope for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project (*March 6, 2013*)