



NIRB File No.: 11MN034

May 21, 2014

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@agnicoeagle.com

Re: Acceptance of the Final EIS and Commencement of Technical Review Period for the NIRB's Review of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Gold Project

Dear Stephane Robert:

On May 6, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) initiated an internal review of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM or Proponent) Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) submission for the Meliadine Gold Project (the Project or the Meliadine Project) to determine compliance with the NIRB's previously issued EIS Guidelines¹, and Preliminary Hearing Conference Decision² (PHC Decision). The PHC Decision includes commitments made by AEM prior to the Technical meeting and those made at the Technical meeting.

COMPLIANCE REVIEW

The NIRB has now completed its compliance review of AEM's Final EIS submission and has determined that the Final EIS generally complies with both the NIRB's EIS Guidelines and the Board's PHC Decision.

AEM's Final EIS submission for the Meliadine proposal 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/09-FINAL%20EIS/>

¹ NIRB Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Project (NIRB File No. 11MN034), issued February 20, 2012.

² NIRB Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Concerning the Meliadine Gold Project (NIRB File No. 11MN034) Proposed by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd., issued January 16, 2014.

As the Board has accepted AEM's Final EIS submission for the Project, the Board requests that the Proponent provide nine (9) hard copies of the Final EIS Main Document (including only Appendix 1.0-B) to the NIRB office in Cambridge Bay.

OBJECTIVE OF THE NIRB'S REVIEW & NEXT STEPS

With the acceptance of the Proponent's May 6, 2014 Final EIS submission, the Board now commences the technical review of AEM's Final EIS for the Meliadine Project. By copy of this letter, the Board invites interested parties to submit final written submissions to the NIRB and submissions will be accepted until **5:00 pm MT Monday July 21, 2014**. Please note that the NIRB has provided direction on the recommended format for final written submissions as Appendix A.

Similar to the technical review of the Draft EIS, the technical review of the Final EIS is a detailed analysis of the EIS documentation, with the objective of assessing the quality of the supplemental and/or revised information that has been addressed following the PHC and reconsidering the conclusions of the impact predictions presented by the Proponent. During this final phase of the NIRB's Review process, the technical review period for the Final EIS is meant to facilitate parties' determination of whether they agree with the Proponent's conclusions regarding the Project's potential ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts, the adequacy of proposed mitigation and monitoring measures and, ultimately whether parties support the approval of the Project as currently proposed.

The NIRB's Review process is structured with both Draft EIS and Final EIS stages in order to allow for a more iterative process in which environmental assessment serves to support the Proponent to plan the best possible project, with input from the public, government, Inuit organizations and other interested parties while also providing a foundation for the subsequent permitting and licensing work of authorizing agencies. The participation by these parties in the Review process also serves to provide the NIRB with important advice for its consideration in developing the Final Hearing Report on the Project, which will determine whether the impacts from the Project can be managed appropriately and ultimately, whether the Project should be allowed to proceed and, if so, under what terms and conditions.

As noted within the NIRB's PHC Decision, the Board anticipated that the technical review period would include a 60 day period for the preparation and provision of final written submissions by parties, and a 14 day period for AEM to file a written response to the final submissions of the parties prior to the Final Hearing. The Board also notes for the information of all parties that even with the Proponent's response to submissions, it is expected that there will be issues which are unresolved prior to the Final Hearing and which will necessarily remain to be addressed at the Final Hearing itself. The Final Hearing is the appropriate venue for the Proponent to provide its final response for consideration by the Board and all parties, as the Board and all parties benefit from a full and fair discussion of all respective positions.

When assessing how much information and what level of detail or confidence is adequate to allow for development of final written submissions, all parties are reminded that the focus of these submissions is expected to include the following:

- Determination of whether Parties agree/disagree with the conclusions presented in the Final EIS regarding the alternatives assessment, environmental impacts, proposed mitigation, significance of impacts, and monitoring measures – and all evidence supporting the parties' position;
- Determination of whether or not conclusions presented in the Final EIS are supported by the analysis – and all evidence supporting the parties' position;
- Determination of whether appropriate methodology was utilized in the Final EIS to develop conclusions – and all evidence supporting the parties' position;
- An assessment of the quality of the information presented in the Final EIS; and
- Determination regarding the appropriateness of proposed monitoring measures – and evidence to support the determination, along with any proposed alternative monitoring measures which may be more appropriate (if applicable).

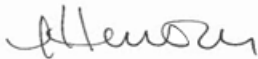
SUMMARY

In closing, please be advised that the NIRB staff will continue discussions with the host community of Rankin Inlet to determine acceptable dates and logistics for the Final Hearing. We will be in a position to provide further details and confirmation of dates to all parties by way of a Notice of Public Hearing in the coming weeks.

Once again the NIRB reminds all parties that the deadline for final written submissions is **5:00 pm MT Monday July 21, 2014**. Submissions may be provided by email to info@nirb.ca or by fax to **(867) 983-2594**.

Should you have any questions or require clarification regarding the results of the NIRB's compliance review or the next steps in the Board's Review of the Meliadine Project, please contact Kelli Gillard, Technical Advisor, by telephone at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attached: Appendix A – Format for Parties' Written Submissions

cc: Meliadine Distribution List
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Agnes Simonfalvy, Government of Nunavut
Karen Costello, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Tanika Simmons, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Carey Ogilvie, Environment Canada
Elizabeth Patreau, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Rob Johnstone, Natural Resources Canada
Meighan Andrews, Transport Canada

Written submissions must contain the following:

1. Executive Summary

Submissions must contain a non-technical executive summary of the major issues identified during the review of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS). The summary should not exceed two pages.

2. Table of Contents

Submissions must contain a table of contents with sections related to the main headings of the NIRB’s EIS Guidelines for the Project and identifying the major issues under those headings the party intends to address at the Final Hearing. In addition to addressing the major issues they have identified for the Final Hearing, submissions may also address any other matter the party considers relevant to the NIRB’s review of the Final EIS and the Project.

3. Introduction

All submissions should contain a statement of the party’s mandate and relationship to the Project, and for parties with regulatory jurisdiction over the Meliadine Project, a description of the jurisdiction of that party and a list of the legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines administered by the party that are applicable to the Project.

4. Specific Comments

For each issue included in the submissions, parties should provide the following:

- a) A detailed description of the issue and, where appropriate, a reference to where within the Final EIS (document, section and page number) that issue is discussed;
- b) If provided by the Proponent, identify the Proponent’s conclusion(s) related to the issue;
- c) A statement regarding the conclusion(s) of the commenting party related to the issue, including reference to the justification/data/rationale supporting that conclusion;
- d) A brief discussion assessing the issue’s importance to the impact assessment process; and
- e) Any recommendation(s) to the Board with respect to the disposition of the issue.

5. Summary of Recommendations

Finally, submissions must contain a bulleted summary of the recommendations to the Board with respect to:

- whether Parties agree/disagree with the conclusions presented in the Final EIS regarding the alternatives assessment, environmental impacts, proposed mitigation, significance of impacts, and monitoring measures – and all evidence supporting the parties’ position;
- whether or not conclusions presented in the Final EIS are supported by the analysis – and all evidence supporting the parties’ position;

- whether appropriate methodology was utilized in the Final EIS to develop conclusions – and all evidence supporting the parties’ position;
- an assessment of the quality of the information presented in the Final EIS; and
- an assessment of the appropriateness of proposed monitoring measures – and evidence to support the determination, along with any proposed alternative monitoring measures which may be more appropriate (if applicable).

Translation/Interpretation Requirements

The NIRB requires executive summaries be provided in English and be translated into both **Inuktitut** and **French**. Please note that parties are responsible for sourcing this translation.

The Final Hearing will be conducted in Inuktitut and English, using simultaneous interpretation. The NIRB will also ensure that simultaneous interpretation in French is made available upon request. Please notify the NIRB should you require French interpretation to be made available for the Final Hearing.

Additionally, those who require special audio-visual equipment at the Final Hearing are requested to inform the NIRB in order that adequate arrangements can be made.

Format, File Size and Deadline for filing submissions

Parties must provide submissions in a fully functional, electronically searchable Word, Excel or PDF file. Noting the current constraints with respect to internet bandwidth and speed, the NIRB requests that all documents be submitted as files no larger than 5 MB.

The NIRB reminds parties that the deadline for final written submissions is **5:00 pm MT Monday July 21, 2014**.