



NIRB File No.: 11MN034

October 23, 2015

Stéphane Robert  
Manager, Regulatory Affairs  
Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. – Meadowbank Division  
P.O. Box 540  
Baker Lake, NU X0C 0A0

Sent via email: [stephane.robert@agnicoeagle.com](mailto:stephane.robert@agnicoeagle.com)

**Re: The Nunavut Impact Review Board's 2015 Annual Monitoring Report for the Meliadine Gold Project and Board's Recommendations**

Dear Stéphane Robert:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) is hereby releasing its *2015 Annual Monitoring Report for Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Gold Project* (Monitoring Report) along with the 2015 Site Visit Report for the NIRB's monitoring of the Meliadine Gold Project (NIRB File No. 11MN034) (included as Appendix I to the Monitoring Report). The enclosed Monitoring Report is based on the NIRB's monitoring activities as set out within the Meliadine Gold Mine Project Certificate [006] and pursuant to Sections 12.7.1 and 12.7.2 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. This report provides findings that resulted from monitoring of this Project that took place from February to September 2015.

By way of a motion carried during its regular meeting held in October 2015, the Board has issued the following recommendations to assist Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (AEM) in achieving compliance with the Meliadine Gold Mine Project Certificate and to ensure that the NIRB has all information necessary to adequately discharge its mandate with respect to provisions within section 12.7 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement as such pertain to the Meliadine Gold Project.

*Vegetation Monitoring – Condition 39*

Condition 39 requires that AEM develop and establish an on-going monitoring program to determine the distribution, abundance, and health of vegetation species used as caribou forage (such as lichens) near Project areas prior to commencing operations. As of the date of this report, the NIRB has yet to receive documentation on the monitoring program. Discussions that occurred between AEM and the NIRB Monitoring Officer during the NIRB site visit indicated that a program submission is forthcoming in the fourth quarter of 2015.

**Recommendation 1:** The Board requests that AEM provide details on its development and establishment of a monitoring program as required pursuant to Condition 39. It is

requested that AEM provide a response within 30 days of the recommendation's issuance.

#### Employment Schedule – Condition 92

Condition 92 requires that AEM submit a detailed staff schedule to the NIRB and to the Government of Nunavut within 6 months of the Project Certificate being issued. As of the date of this report, the NIRB has yet to receive documentation of the staff schedule as required by Condition 92. Discussions that occurred between AEM and the NIRB Monitoring Officer during the NIRB site visit indicated a submission would be forthcoming.

**Recommendation 2:** The Board recommends that AEM provide a detailed staff schedule to the NIRB pursuant to Condition 92. It is requested that AEM provide a response within 30 days of the recommendation's issuance.

#### Employment Labour Force Analysis – Condition 94

Condition 94 requires that AEM update its labour force analysis utilizing current or the most recent baseline information and submit the information to the NIRB within 6 months of the Project Certificate being issued. As of the date of this report, the NIRB has yet to receive documentation of the updated labour force analysis. Discussions that occurred between AEM and the NIRB Monitoring Officer during the NIRB site visit indicated a submission would be forthcoming.

**Recommendation 3:** The Board requests that AEM provide the updated labour force analysis pursuant to the requirements of Condition 94. It is requested that AEM provide a response within 30 days of the recommendation's issuance.

#### General Observations

The NIRB notes that with the issuance of the Project Certificate in the first quarter of this year, AEM is currently in a licensing phase prior to the commencement of construction of the mine and related infrastructure. As a result, the majority of the Terms & Conditions are not necessarily applicable at this time. However, a number of the Terms & Conditions require submissions to the NIRB and other Agencies at varying times from the issuance of the Project Certificate to the commencement of construction and subsequent operations and are currently outstanding.

**Recommendation 4:** The Board requests that AEM provide sufficient notice on changes to site status and that it submit the required plans or updates to meet the requirements of the Project Certificate timeframes that allow for adequate review and approval by responsible authorities. The Board requires that AEM provide clarifications on how this will be planned and achieved within 30 days of the recommendation's issuance.

The Board respectfully requests that for items requiring follow-up action by AEM that a response be provided within the timeline as requested for each of the recommendations.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification regarding this request or related to the NIRB's monitoring program for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project, please contact the undersigned directly at (867) 983-4607 or [kbenoit@nirb.ca](mailto:kbenoit@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Kristina Benoit  
Meliadine Gold Project Monitoring Officer  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Meliadine Gold Distribution List

Enclosure (1): The Nunavut Impact Review Board's *2015 Annual Monitoring Report for the Meliadine Gold Project*