



NIRB File No.: 11MN034
NWB File No.: 2AM-MEL----

April 16, 2018

Jamie Quesnel
Environmental Superintendent - Nunavut
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
P.O. Box 879
Rankin Inlet, NU X0C 0G0

Sent via email: jamie.quesnel@agnicoeagle.com

Re: Guidance for Final Environmental Impact Statement Addendum for the “Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment, Rankin Inlet, Meliadine Gold Mine” Project Proposal

Dear Jamie Quesnel:

As noted in correspondence dated April 6, 2018, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) concluded that the Agnico Eagle Mines Limited’s (Agnico Eagle, or Proponent) “Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment, Rankin Inlet, Meliadine Gold Mine” project proposal (the Saline Effluent Discharge Proposal) constitutes a significant modification to the previously assessed Meliadine Gold Mine Project (NIRB File No. 11MN034). Further, the Board noted that the Saline Effluent Discharge Proposal is within the scope of, and integrally-linked to the original project, and consequently, the Board would be initiating a formal reconsideration of the terms and conditions of Project Certificate No. 006 in accordance with Article 12, Section 12.8.2 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and with s. 112 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14 (*NuPPAA*).

This correspondence is to provide further guidance to Agnico Eagle regarding the specific information requirements expected to be addressed in the submission of an addendum to the Meliadine Gold Mine Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS Addendum). The NIRB requests that the Proponent provides a comprehensive FEIS Addendum in order to facilitate the assessment of the proposed modification. The FEIS Addendum should describe all aspects of the Saline Effluent Discharge Proposal, including updates to relevant baseline data, impact predictions, proposed mitigation measures and monitoring plans, and proposed community consultation. The potential impact of the proposed activities to the life of the infrastructure, design, or eventual remediation should also be clearly noted. The FEIS Addendum must also include a concordance table demonstrating compliance with the EIS

Guidelines for the Meliadine Gold Project¹ and should be prepared as a stand-alone document capable of supporting an intervenor and public review, comment and assessment process. The NIRB is also providing general information requirements for the FEIS Addendum in [Appendix A](#) as further guidance to the Proponent when developing the FEIS Addendum.

In closing, the NIRB requests that Agnico Eagle review the enclosed appendix and provide a date for its anticipated submission of the FEIS Addendum to the NIRB by **April 23, 2018**.

Should you have questions or require further clarification, please Shanley Thompson, Technical Advisor II and NIRB Monitoring Officer for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project at 867-983-4607 or via email at sthompson@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kelli Gillard, B.Sc., P.Ag.
Acting Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Meliadine Gold Mine Distribution List
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Georgina Williston, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Attachment (1): Appendix A: Information Requirements for the Completion of the FEIS Addendum for Agnico Eagle's Saline Effluent Discharge Proposal

¹ Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Project (NIRB File No. 11MN034). Issued by the Nunavut Impact Review Board, February 20, 2012 [Document Id.: 286775].

APPENDIX A:
INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE FEIS ADDENDUM FOR AGNICO EAGLE'S SALINE EFFLUENT DISCHARGE PROPOSAL

The following information is requested in the submission of an addendum to the Meliadine Gold Mine Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS Addendum) for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's (Agnico Eagle, or Proponent) "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment, Rankin Inlet, Meliadine Gold Mine" project proposal (the Saline Effluent Discharge Proposal). The information requested in this appendix does not limit the information Agnico Eagle should submit, and Agnico Eagle is advised to review the EIS Guidelines for the Meliadine Gold Project² to ensure all relevant information is provided for the Saline Effluent Discharge Proposal and that, at a minimum, the FEIS Addendum contain the information as outlined Article 12, Section 12.5.2 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* and s. 101(3) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*.

Agnico Eagle should provide the following information within the FEIS Addendum with a Table of Concordance that cross references the information presented in the FEIS Addendum (document, section, and page number) with the information requirements identified in the EIS Guidelines³ – the NIRB has made efforts to identify the following specific information requirements pertaining to the EIS Guidelines which appear to be applicable:

- Executive and Popular Summaries (EIS Guidelines, sections 4.6.1 and 4.6.2);
- Description of Saline Effluent Discharge project and related activities, including rationale for the project, and timelines;
- Charts, diagrams, tables, maps, and photographs to clarify the text as appropriate (EIS Guidelines, section 4.5);
- Drawings that clearly convey the various components of the Project (EIS Guidelines, section 4.5);
- Maps presented in a consistent and clearly identified datum and at appropriate and clearly identified scales to allow for comparison and overlay of mapped features (EIS Guidelines, section 4.5);
- Identification of spatial and temporal boundaries for this project assessment (EIS Guidelines, section 7.5);
- A summary of public consultation conducted with affected communities, residents, Inuit Organizations, Indigenous groups, and other governments or other organizations. The summary should include the issues raised and the Proponent's responses (EIS Guidelines, section 7.1);
- A summary of Inuit Qaujimaningit, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Traditional and Community Knowledge collected in regards to saline groundwater management and the current proposal and how it was incorporated within the proposal (EIS Guidelines, section 7.2);

² ibid

³ ibid

- Summary of environmental effects assessment for each valued ecosystemic component (VEC) and valued socio-economic component (VSEC) expected to interact with the proposed project including the following:
 - Description of the baseline by incorporating the latest available monitoring data (EIS Guidelines, sections 7.3, 7.4, 8.1 and 8.2);
 - Anticipated changes to the environment;
 - Anticipated effects (i.e., potential interactions) (EIS Guidelines, sections 7.8, 7.9 8.1 and 8.2);
 - Indicate explicitly what potential effects were or were not previously assessed
 - Identify the indicators (measures) and criteria used to assess impacts for each VEC/VSEC (EIS Guidelines, section 7.13)
 - Update all models as required for this proposal (e.g., noise and air quality modelling).
 - Mitigation measures (EIS Guidelines, sections 8.1, 8.2 and 8.4);
 - Identification and classification of residual effects for each VEC/VSEC, clearly indicating for each residual effect identified (EIS Guidelines, sections 7.14 and 9.8):
 - Probability of effect;
 - Direction or nature of impact (i.e., positive/beneficial versus negative/adverse);
 - Magnitude and complexity of effect;
 - Geographic extent of effect;
 - Frequency and/or duration of effect;
 - Reversibility or irreversibility of effect;
 - Determination of significance for each residual effect
- Where applicable, link back to the predictions made in the FEIS for each VEC/VSEC and indicate what, if any, changes are predicted in terms of potential effects, residual effects, and significance determination.
 - As an example, and in particular, provide the traffic volumes originally predicted on the all-weather access road (AWAR) and update this number to include the expected traffic volumes for the proposed project when assessing the potential effects of dust, disturbance to wildlife, disturbance to traditional land use activities, etc.
- Stand-alone management and monitoring plans with details such as monitoring methodology (including parameters to be measured), approximate sampling locations (provide a map), monitoring frequency, and thresholds/triggers for adaptive management. Further, the following management plans shall be included/updated to incorporate the Saline Effluent Discharge Proposal (EIS Guidelines, sections 9.3 and 9.4):
 - Air Quality Monitoring Plan
 - Marine Environmental Management Plan (Appendix D of the Shipping Management Plan);
 - Groundwater Management Plan;
 - Mine Waste Management Plan
 - Mine Water Management Plan
 - Noise Abatement and Monitoring Plan

- Roads Management Plan
 - Terrestrial Environment Management and Monitoring Plan
- Cumulative Effects Assessment for each VEC/VSEC (EIS Guidelines, section 7.11);
- Include possible impacts of the environment on the project (e.g., storms, ice, etc.) (EIS Guidelines, section 7.10);
- Identify any uncertainties or limitations in the effects assessment (EIS Guidelines, section 7.15); and
- Description on how a conservative or precautionary approach has been taken (EIS Guidelines, section 2..4)