



NEWS RELEASE

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Nunavut Impact Review Board Issues Reconsideration Report and Recommendations for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited’s “Saline Effluent Discharge to the Marine Environment Proposal” for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project

CAMBRIDGE BAY, NU – October 31, 2018 – The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) has issued a Reconsideration Report and Recommendations to present the findings of the Board’s assessment of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.’s (Agnico Eagle) “Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment Proposal”. The Saline Effluent Discharge Proposal proposes modifications to the previously-approved Meliadine Gold Mine Project (NIRB File No. 11MN034), located near Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. The scope of the proposed activities include the trucking, temporary storage, and discharge of treated saline groundwater from the underground mine at the Meliadine Gold Mine to Melvin Bay at Itivia Harbour during the open water season. Agnico Eagle proposes to use this method of saline water disposal in addition to the previously-approved practice of treating the groundwater coming from the underground workings and discharging this water to Meliadine Lake through a collection pond.

The NIRB received the Saline Effluent Discharge Proposal in January 2018 from the Nunavut Planning Commission (the Commission), along with confirmation that the proposed activities conformed with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan. The Commission’s referral also indicated that the Saline Effluent Discharge Proposal represented a significant modification to the approved Meliadine Gold Mine Project due to the change in location of the discharge of the saline effluent into the marine environment and the revised method of treatment of the water.

Following the NIRB’s solicitation and receipt of comments from the public, interested parties, and regulatory authorities in respect of the Saline Effluent Discharge Proposal, the NIRB determined that the proposed changes warranted reconsideration of the terms and conditions in the existing Meliadine Gold Mine 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 s. 112 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)*.

- Updates to the existing saline and groundwater management planning and project monitoring requirements to reflect the Saline Effluent Discharge Proposal;
- The addition of terms and conditions requiring Agnico Eagle to submit detailed designs to the NIRB and to conduct hazard and operability assessments of the saline effluent disposal system (tank, pipeline, and marine diffuser) at the Itivia site at least six (6) months prior to operation;
- Additional terms and conditions applicable to planning for the removal of the subsea pipeline and diffuser when the saline effluent disposal system is no longer in use;



- The addition of a term and condition requiring Agnico Eagle to develop a program, in consultation with the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization and the community of Rankin Inlet: to identify the season of operation for the saline effluent disposal system; for monitoring the temperature of effluent going into the subsea pipeline; monitoring the ice thickness on Melvin Bay in the vicinity of the discharge; and developing and implementing communication and safety protocols applicable to effects on travel by community members through Itivia and Melvin Bay that could arise; and
- Updates to the existing marine ecosystem and marine mammal monitoring programs including the Ocean Discharge Monitoring Plan and Appendix D of the Shipping Management Plan to reflect the potential for effects associated with the addition of this volume of saline groundwater effluent being released into the marine environment.

In closing, the Board is grateful to all who shared their experiences, expertise, and perspectives to assist us in completing a thorough and timely assessment of the Modification Proposal. The NIRB recognizes and appreciates the positive, collaborative, and respectful contributions of all who continue to work together to ensure that the Meliadine Gold Mine Project delivers lasting economic benefits to the Kivalliq Region while minimizing the potential for adverse socio-economic and ecosystemic effects.

The Reconsideration Report, which includes an executive summary, is available from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/124106.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Copland
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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