

Minister of Intergovernmental
and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade



Ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
et du Nord et du Commerce intérieur

Ottawa, Canada
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JAN 28 2019

Ms. Elizabeth Copland
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360
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ecopland@nirb.ca

Dear Ms. Copland:

Thank you for your letter of October 31, 2018, and the enclosed Reconsideration Report and Recommendations regarding Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's "Saline Effluent Discharge to the Marine Environment" for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project as well as the subsequent Notice of Correction that you issued on November 9, 2018. I appreciate the Nunavut Impact Review Board's diligence in this matter.

The Ministers of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard; Natural Resources; Transport; and Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade have the regulatory jurisdiction for authorizing the Meliadine Gold Mine Project to proceed. As the responsible ministers, we are required to accept, reject or vary the terms and conditions recommended in the report. This role is established in section 12.8.3 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, which is brought forward into legislation in section 112 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*.

As described in the report, the Nunavut Impact Review Board has assessed the proposal by way of a reconsideration of the terms and conditions of Project Certificate No. 006, conducted under section 112 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*. The Nunavut Impact Review Board concluded that this proposed change in the Meliadine Gold Project should proceed to the regulatory phase with recommended revisions and additions to the existing terms and conditions in the Project Certificate. I also support the Nunavut Impact Review Board's expectation that the proponent will update the relevant management plans to reflect the approval of this modification.

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Having carefully considered the Nunavut Impact Review Board's report, with the concurrence of the other ministers, I accept the review board's recommendation that the proposal can proceed pursuant to section 112(6)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*.

The impact assessment conducted by the review board has provided many opportunities for engagement and consultation of Indigenous Peoples and organizations. Following the release of the review board's report, further input was sought from the Kivalliq Inuit Association in the form of correspondence issued by the Northern Project Management Office. No outstanding concerns were expressed by the designated Inuit organization with respect to their ability to engage in the assessment process or with the determination of the review board. The thorough and inclusive assessment process conducted by the review board, coupled with effective responses to issues raised by Indigenous participants, has led the other responsible ministers and me to conclude that there has been adequate and meaningful consultation with affected Indigenous groups.

My colleagues and I look forward to the issuance of the updated project certificate, and appreciate the review board's commitment to work with the parties to ensure that all of the associated terms and conditions can be fully implemented.

On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Nunavut Impact Review Board and its staff to complete the reconsideration process in an expedited manner while meeting the objectives set out in Article 12 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

Sincerely,



Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., Q.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.