



NEWS RELEASE

NIRB File No. 11MN034

Nunavut Impact Review Board Issues Amendment No. 1 to Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Meliadine Gold Mine Project Certificate No. 006 for the "Saline Effluent Discharge to the Marine Environment Proposal"

CAMBRIDGE BAY, NU – February 26, 2019: Following the completion of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) assessment of the potential ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts of the "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment Proposal" related to the previously-approved Meliadine Gold Mine Project (NIRB File No. 11MN034) and as approved by the Responsible Ministers in their January 28, 2019 correspondence, the NIRB has issued amended Project Certificate No. 006 to Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle).

The Meliadine Project is an approved gold mining and milling development located approximately 25 km north of Rankin Inlet. Through the "Saline Effluent Discharge to the Marine Environment Proposal" Agnico Eagle has now been approved to discharge saline effluent (salty or saline groundwater) from the Tiriganiaq Underground Mine into the marine environment at Melvin Bay near Rankin Inlet. Agnico Eagle will collect and truck the saline groundwater via the existing all-weather road from the mine site to a holding tank on the shore. The holding tank will be connected to an underwater pipeline and diffuser installed into Melvin Bay which would release the saline water into the ocean. The Nunavut Water Board Type "A" Water Licence for the Project allows Agnico Eagle to manage the salty groundwater flowing into the underground workings by treating the water prior to discharge into collection ponds and Meliadine Lake. Agnico Eagle is expected to continue using the previously licensed water management practices while also utilizing the option to discharge a portion of the salty groundwater into the ocean during the open water season moving forward.

Following a thorough public assessment of the proposal including a public hearing in Rankin Inlet in September 2018, the NIRB determined that the proposed activities could proceed subject to new and revised terms and conditions. The amended Project Certificate includes incorporation of revised term and condition #25 which describes the requirements of the Groundwater Management Plan for the Meliadine Project. New terms and conditions #128 through #131 have been incorporated and impose requirements for submission of the detailed design of the discharge system, a hazard and operability assessment, and engagement with the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization when determining the "open water season" when discharge is allowed each year. The amended Project Certificate also requires Agnico Eagle to remove the subsea pipeline and diffuser once it is no longer in use. The Board has also provided additional direction in the reporting requirements of the Project Certificate terms and conditions based on feedback received from regulatory authorities, the Proponent and other interested parties.

The NIRB will remain in contact with regulators to support the subsequent permitting process associated with the amended activities for the Meliadine Project. The NIRB will also continue to work with Agnico Eagle Mines Limited to monitor the Meliadine Gold Mine Project in accordance with Part 7 of Article 12 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 135 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), according to the requirements of the amended Project Certificate.

The NIRB appreciates the participation of the community of Rankin Inlet, regulators, the proponent and other interested parties in the assessment for the "Saline Effluent Discharge to the Marine Environment Proposal" and the monitoring program for the Meliadine Gold Mine. Documentation relevant to Project Certificate No. 006 (including Amendment No. 1) and Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Saline Effluent Discharge to the Marine Environment Proposal is available online from the Board's public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/124106.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'E. Copland', with a stylized, cursive script.

Elizabeth Copland
Chairperson of the Nunavut Impact Review Board

For more information, the media may contact:

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