



March 18, 2020

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board
29 Mitik Street
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU
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Canada

RE: Meliadine Mine Saline Water Management Update – Mid Term Strategy 2020

Dear Mr. Barry:

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (**Agnico Eagle**) currently operates the Meliadine Gold Mine in accordance with Nunavut Impact Review Board (**NIRB**) Project Certificate No. 006 and Nunavut Water Board (**NWB**) Type A Water Licence 2AM-MEL1631 (the **Water Licence**). As suggested by the Nunavut Water Board (**NWB**) in relation to its recent approval of Agnico Eagle's Roads Management Plan, Agnico Eagle is writing to provide the NIRB with notification of our planned management of saline groundwater water at the Meliadine Mine during the summer of 2020.

In 2019, Project Certificate No. 006 was amended to permit transportation of saline groundwater along the All Weather Access Road (**AWAR**) and discharge into Melvin Bay via diffuser. The diffuser design report was completed and submitted to NIRB on February 15, 2019 as per Project Certificate No. 006 Condition 128. As reflected in that design report (see Section 2.1.2, "Discharge Conditions"), one of the assumptions used by Golder Associates for the near field mixing analysis was that there would be a flow rate of 800 m³ per 12 hour period, for an equivalent flow rate of 1,600 m³ per day. In August 2019, Agnico Eagle began discharging saline water into Melvin Bay from Itivia at 800 m³ per 12 hour period.

Based on three years (2017 to 2019) of operational experience at Meliadine, Agnico Eagle has identified that further adaptive management strategies are necessary to ensure best management practices are implemented at site as additional volumes of saline groundwater are forecasted. As an initial step, during Summer 2020, Agnico Eagle plans to increase discharge at Itivia from the current 800 m³ per 12 hour period up to 1600 m³ per day using the existing infrastructure and trucking methods. This increased discharge during 2020 is described in the updated Roads Management Plan, which was approved by the NWB through Board Motion No. 2019-A1-014 dated February 22, 2020 as required by Part B, Item 12 of the Water Licence. During the NWB's review of this plan, Environment and Climate Change Canada (**ECCC**) reviewed the plan but did not submit any technical comments.

The timing of the discharge will remain unchanged (May-October, during open water). Agnico Eagle has considered whether this activity would have possible implications to regulatory requirements or monitoring programs, such as terms and conditions of licences, permits or other authorizations issued in



relation to the project. Agnico Eagle has not identified any new or amended permits or approvals that are required in order to proceed with this activity, nor have any amendments to the monitoring programs been identified. All legislative requirements, including the *Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations*, will continue to be met. All commitments made during previous NIRB processes, including the NIRB reconsideration, would continue to be followed.

While additional trucks will be required to transport water during 2020, all current protection measures will continue to be adhered to via the applicable management plans to ensure protection of the environment.

For the long term strategy, Agnico Eagle plans to install a waterline in order to eliminate the need for trucks transporting saline water on the AWAR. Agnico Eagle has prepared a separate submission to the NIRB on this topic with a view to utilizing the waterline and commencing further increased discharge at Itivia by 2021. Agnico Eagle looks forward to further engagement with NIRB with respect to the waterline and 2021 discharge plan following referral by the Nunavut Planning Commission in the coming weeks.

It is Agnico Eagle's understanding that no further steps are required by NIRB in relation to the increased discharge at Itivia during summer 2020. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jamie Quesnel

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Regional Manager – Permitting and Regulatory Affairs