



NEWS RELEASE

NIRB File No. 11MN034

Project Certificate No. 006 Amendment No. 002

Nunavut Impact Review Board Issues Amendment No. 002 to Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Meliadine Gold Mine Project Certificate No. 006 for the "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment" Proposal

CAMBRIDGE BAY, NU – March 2, 2022: 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" Project Proposal (Waterlines Proposal), a modification of the previously-approved Meliadine Gold Mine Project (NIRB File No. 11MN034) the NIRB has issued a revised version of Project Certificate No. 006 Amendment No. 002 to Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle).¹ The changes to the terms and conditions in Project Certificate No. 006 Amendment No. 002 reflect the recommendations of the Board,² as approved and varied by the Responsible Ministers and communicated by the Minister of Northern Affairs in his January 31, 2022 correspondence.³

The Waterlines Proposal includes changes to the way treated saline effluent (salty groundwater), flowing into the underground mine at the Meliadine Gold Mine site, is moved from the mine site and discharged into the ocean at Melvin Bay. Currently this water is trucked from the mine to Itivia Harbour and discharged into the ocean through a pipe and diffuser that is placed under the water in Melvin Bay. Under the Waterlines Proposal, Agnico Eagle was approved to change the transportation of this saline effluent to dual waterlines which will be installed along the existing roadway, with the waterlines 80-90% covered by gravel. As part of Agnico Eagle's adaptive management of surface contact water (such as snow, rain, and runoff that contacts the mine site) the waterlines may also be used to transport this treated surface contact water for release into Melvin Bay. This use of the waterlines is intended to reduce releases of surface contact water into Meliadine Lake. The Waterlines Proposal also includes an increase to the amount of treated water released into Melvin Bay, with the daily rate increasing to a total combined daily discharge of saline effluent and surface contact water of up to 20,000 cubic metres (m³) per day during the open water season.

To limit the potential for the Waterlines Proposal to result in negative environmental or socio-economic impacts, the Board recommended that eleven (11) existing terms and conditions in the existing Project Certificate No. 006 Amendment No. 001 be revised (specifically Nos. 25, 44, 53, 54, 57, 118, 119, 124, 125, 128, and 130). The Board also recommended that three (3) new terms and conditions (Nos. 132, 133, and 134) be added to the Project Certificate to ensure that the potential for impacts on the terrestrial wildlife (including caribou), the terrestrial environment, and the marine environment (including fish and shellfish) is minimized. The Responsible Ministers further varied three (3) of these terms and conditions (Nos. 25, 44, and 132) to specify requirements of Agnico Eagle's monitoring programs, and clarify the requirements that management plans are designed, informed, and adapted to reflect Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and Traditional and Community Knowledge shared by knowledge holders from nearby communities, harvesters, and interested transboundary groups.

The NIRB will remain in contact with regulators to support the subsequent permitting process associated with the changes to activities for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project. The NIRB will also continue to work with Agnico Eagle to monitor the Project in accordance with the requirements

¹ Project Certificate No. 006 Amendment No. 002 is available from the NIRB's Public Registry <https://www.nirb.ca/> using Public Registry ID No.: 338097.

² The NIRB's July 2021 *Reconsideration and Recommendation Report* is available from the NIRB's Public Registry <https://www.nirb.ca/> using Public Registry ID No.: 336375.

³ The Minister's correspondence is available from the NIRB's Public Registry <https://www.nirb.ca/> using Public Registry ID No.:337809.

of applicable legislation and the terms and condition of Project Certificate No. 006 Amendment No. 002.

The NIRB appreciates the participation of the Kivalliq communities, regulators, Agnico Eagle, and other interested parties in the Board's assessment of the Waterlines Proposal and the monitoring program for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project. Documentation relevant to Project Certificate No. 006 Amendment 002 and Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Waterlines Proposal is available online from the NIRB's public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125515.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Kaviq Kaluraq". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "M." and the last name "Kaluraq" clearly distinguishable.

Kaviq Kaluraq
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

For more information, the media may contact:

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