



NIRB File No.: 11MN034
NWB File No.: 2AM-MEL1631

May 24, 2022

To: Meliadine Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Request for Comments on Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's "Meliadine Extension" Project Proposal for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project

Dear Parties:

On April 1, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral from the Nunavut Planning Commission (the Commission) to assess Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's (Agnico Eagle) "Meliadine Extension" project proposal noting the proposal conforms to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan. The Commission referred the proposal to the NIRB for assessment as it proposes development of a component or activity that was not part of the original or previously amended proposal. Therefore, the proposal represents a significant modification to the approved project and under Section 12.4.3 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and requires assessment by the NIRB prior to issuance of any permits, licences or other approvals by associated Regulatory Authorities. On April 14, 2022, Agnico Eagle provided the "Meliadine Extension" project proposal for the Board's consideration. Following a completeness check the NIRB requested additional information to determine the full scope and nature of the proposal which was provided by the Proponent on May 4, 2022.

As outlined in more detail below, the NIRB is soliciting comments from interested parties and regulatory authorities on Agnico Eagle's proposed modification to the Meliadine Gold Mine Project prior to determining whether the proposed changes warrant reconsideration of the existing Project Certificate No. 006 in accordance with the *Nunavut Agreement* Section 12.8.2 and s. 112 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). Following receipt of parties' feedback and comments, the NIRB will be providing procedural guidance in respect to next steps in the NIRB's consideration of this project proposal.

As set out in the project description, the “Meliadine Extension” project proposal (the Proposal) encompasses development activities at the Meliadine Gold Mine Project approximately 25 kilometres (km) from Rankin Inlet. The Proposal includes underground mining at existing open-pit mines and expansion of the current Tiriganiaq underground mine with associated infrastructure for ore, waste, water, and fuel management. The associated infrastructure for the increase in activities also includes the option to store waste rock and tailings in exhausted pits. The camp and existing mine site infrastructure, all-weather access road (AWAR), and laydown area and fuel farm at Itivia Harbour would continue to be used. Use of the waterlines and ocean discharge pipeline to manage site water, which were included in Project Certificate 006 Amendment 02 in March 2022, would also be ongoing, with the addition of a waterline from the Discovery deposit to the mine site along the spur road and AWAR. The Proposal also includes the construction and operation of windmills and the option to construct and operate an airstrip. Agnico Eagle has noted that the Proposal would extend the operation phase (i.e., mine life) by 11 years to 2043.

The project description and associated correspondence can be accessed directly via the NIRB’s online public registry system at www.nirb.ca/project/125684:

- *Agnico Eagle Letter Re Submission of Extension Application* (Doc ID: 338793)
- *Plain Language Summary* (Doc ID: 338697 [English] and 338698 [Inuktitut])
- *FEIS Addendum Meliadine Extension Application* (Doc ID: 338741)
- *FEIS Addendum Appendices* (Doc ID: 338699 through 338814, 339226, 339227, and 339294)
- *Additional Information provided to the NIRB* (Doc ID: 339395)

The scope of activities described within the “Meliadine Extension” project proposal includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Inclusion of underground mining at the Pump, F Zone, and Discovery deposits;
- Increase in employment to 905 employees;
- Construction and operation of a windfarm with eleven (11) wind turbines, associated infrastructure, and an access road;
- Option to construct and operate an airstrip and associated infrastructure;
- Use of additional borrow pits and quarries to replace depleted sources and build a road to the windfarm, Tiriganiaq-Wolf portal, airstrip, road to Discovery and other deposits;
- Development of a new portal and associated infrastructure, including two (2) access roads to Tiriganiaq-Wolf;
- Extension of the operation phase (i.e., mine life) by 11 years to 2043;
- Ore Management:
 - Additional temporary ore stockpiles adjacent to Pump, F Zone, Tiriganiaq-Wolf, and Discovery;
- Water Management Infrastructure:
 - Continued use of saline waterlines, marine pipeline and diffuser for discharge of saline effluent (salty groundwater) to Melvin Bay;
 - Construction and operation of a waterline running from the Discovery deposit to the mine site along the Discovery spur road and AWAR for treatment of saline effluent before discharge to Melvin Bay through the existing waterlines;

- Addition of saline ponds at F Zone, Tiriganiaq-Wolf, Pump and Discovery to collect water originating from underground mine activities;
- Water management structures (i.e. dykes, berms, etc.) to be built as needed;
- Ongoing use of existing freshwater sources and water intake, potable water treatment system;
- Continued use of water management infrastructure (e.g., saline and contact water collection ponds, channels, dikes, berms, jetties, pump systems and pipelines, and culverts), and contact and saline treatment systems;
- Increase in capacity of sewage treatment plant;
- **Waste Management:**
 - Expansion of existing waste rock storage facilities (WRSF), addition of new WRSFs, and continued use of existing WRSFs;
 - Addition of temporary salt waste rock piles for underground waste rock;
 - Option for waste rock storage in open pits;
 - Use of the dry stack Tailings Storage Facility within the existing approved footprint;
 - Option for in-pit slurry tailings deposition in exhausted pits;
 - Additional landfill to be built within the discovery WRSF;
 - Addition of landfarms at the Wesmeg and Discovery deposits;
 - Inclusion of a composter and second incinerator;
 - Ongoing use of existing landfills, landfarms, and incinerator;
- **Fuel and hazardous material:**
 - Installation of fuel storage tanks and containment facilities at Pump, F Zone, Tiriganiaq-Wolf, and Discovery. Each site will consist of four 75,000 litres (L) and one 50,000 L tanks for a total of 350,000 L per site;
 - Addition of a 6,000,000 L fuel storage tank and secondary containment at the existing main site;
 - Option to install two (2) 50,000 L aviation fuel storage tanks adjacent to the potential airstrip;
 - Ongoing use of approved hazardous waste material;
- **Infrastructure at Meliadine Mine Site:**
 - Addition of three (3) wings at the camp to accommodate increased personnel;
 - Ongoing use of existing infrastructure at the Meliadine Mine Site as previously approved: power plant, mill, camp, helipad, maintenance shop, laydown areas, Meliadine tank farm, emulsion plant, quarries and borrow pits, AWAR, Bypass Road, Discovery Spur Road, access roads, and mining at approved deposits;
- **Infrastructure at Itivia Harbour:**
 - Ongoing use of existing infrastructure as previously approved including: laydown areas, tank farm.

COMMENT REQUEST

In recognition of the important role of public and technical submissions that supported the development of the terms and conditions in the existing Project Certificate, the NIRB is requesting comments from parties prior to determining whether the proposed changes warrant reconsideration of the existing Project Certificate No. 006 Amendment 02 in accordance with Section 12.8.2 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 112(1) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). By copy of this letter, the NIRB invites interested parties, members of the public, and those regulatory authorities with jurisdiction over components of the Meliadine Gold Mine Project to provide comments and advice to the Board with respect to the following:

- a) Whether the proposed modification constitutes a significant modification to the original project as previously assessed and subsequently modified and approved by the NIRB;
- b) Whether the proposed modification is consistent with the terms and conditions of the existing Project Certificate No. 006 Amendment 02, or are changes to the Project Certificate necessary to reflect the modification; and
- c) Any matter of importance to the commenting party related to the Board's processing of the project proposal.

The NIRB requests that parties submit comments directly to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca or through the online public registry at www.nirb.ca by **June 7, 2022**.

Should you have any questions or require additional clarification regarding the NIRB's approach to assessing the above noted project proposal, please contact the undersigned directly at kmorrison@nirb.ca or (867) 983-4617. If you have questions related to the proposal or accessing the information, please contact Emily Koide, Technical Advisor I, at ekoide@nirb.ca or (867) 983-4612.

Sincerely,



Keith Morrison
Manager Impact Assessment
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Jamie Quesnel, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Jennifer Range, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Sharon Ehloak, Nunavut Planning Commission
Peter Scholz, Nunavut Planning Commission
Stephanie Autut, Nunavut Water Board
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Sergey Kuflevskiy, Nunavut Water Board
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Bert Dean, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Agnes Simonfalvy, Government of Nunavut

Saba Qazi, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Adrian Paradis, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Jody Small, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Edyta Ratajczyk, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Transport Canada