



NIRB File No.: 11MN034
NWB File No.: 2AM-MEL1631
NPC File No.: 149743

December 22, 2022

To: Jamie Quesnel
Director – Permitting and Regulatory Affairs
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Baker Lake, NU X0C 0A0

Sent via email: jamie.quesnel@agnicoeagle.com

Re: The NIRB's Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Report for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's "Meliadine Extension" Project Proposal

Dear Jamie Quesnel:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) held a Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable, and Pre-Hearing Conference from November 23-25, 2022 as part of the Board's assessment of Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's (Agnico Eagle) "Meliadine Extension" Project Proposal (Proposal). These meetings were held in accordance with the mandate and objectives of the Board established under Article 12 of the *Nunavut Agreement*¹ and Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*² to assess the potential ecosystemic and socio-economic effects of the Proposal.

The enclosed Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Report (Report) outlines the Board's findings that it is premature to schedule the Public Hearing for this file. Although the Proponent and parties have been working together to address concerns, there are significant outstanding issues that parties have indicated must be addressed before they can complete their technical review of the Proposal.

As further described within the Report, the Board's proposed next steps include:

- Community information sessions to be conducted in Tadoule Lake and Lac Brochet, Manitoba;
- Agnico Eagle to file all supplemental information the Proponent has committed to provide to parties, with the Board by **January 31, 2023**;

¹ *Nunavut Agreement: Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada*

² *NuPPAA: Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2.

- Parties and interested members of the public to provide their comments in respect of the supplemental information provided by **February 28, 2023**; and
- In the week of **March 13-17, 2023**, the Board will host a half-day Pre-Hearing Conference (conducted via teleconference).

The Board and parties require sufficient information to assess the potential for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts associated with the Extension Proposal to proceed to the next stages of the process. Therefore, the Board encourages the Proponent and parties to continue to work together to resolve these outstanding concerns to the satisfaction of all parties, and to update the NIRB on an on-going basis regarding the status of resolved and unresolved issues as the assessment progresses.

The NIRB thanks Agnico Eagle and all parties for the cooperative and open dialogue to date, allowing for remaining concerns to be discussed openly. The Board looks forward to receiving updates as outstanding concerns are addressed through the next steps, and is grateful to the Proponent and parties for all contributions to the assessment process.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the enclosed Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Report or the NIRB's assessment of the "Meliadine Extension" Project Proposal, please contact the Board's Acting Executive Director, Tara Arko at (867) 983-4611 or via email at tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kaviq Kaluraq

Chairperson

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): Nunavut Impact Review Board Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Concerning Agnico Eagle's "Meliadine Extension" Project Proposal (NIRB File No. 11MN034) (*December 22, 2022*)

cc: Meliadine Distribution List
 Jennifer Range, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
 Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
 Stephanie Autut, Nunavut Water Board
 Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
 Bert Dean, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
 Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
 Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
 Agnes Simonfalvy, Government of Nunavut
 Natalie D'Souza, Northern Projects Management Office
 Kaitlyn Bakker, Northern Projects Management Office
 Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
 Victoria Shore, Environment and Climate Change Canada
 Alasdair Beattie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
 Julie Anderson, Health Canada
 Adam Downing, Transport Canada
 Vikash Narine, Natural Resources Canada
 Geoff Bussidor, Sayisi Dene First Nation
 Benji Denechezhe, Northlands Denesuline First Nation