

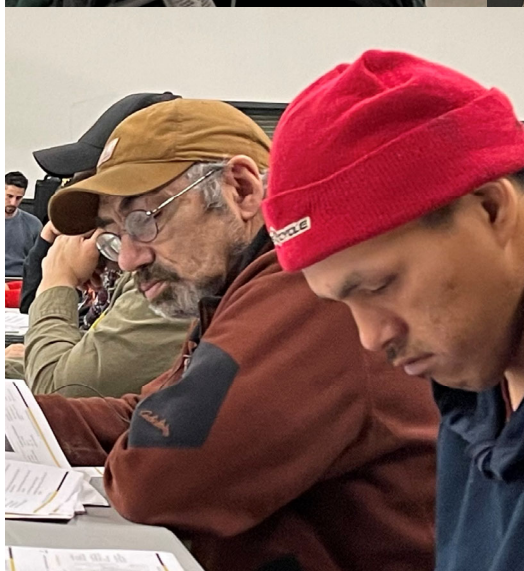


# Nunavut Impact Review Board Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Report for

## Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Meliadine Extension Proposal

Related to the Meliadine Gold Mine Project

NIRB File No. 11MN034



December 22, 2022

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In carrying out its functions, the primary objectives of NIRB shall be at all times to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, and to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area. NIRB shall take into account the well-being of residents of Canada outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.

23(1) The Board must exercise its powers and perform its duties and functions in accordance with the following primary objectives:

- (a) to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the designated area; and
- (b) to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the designated area.

23(2) In exercising its powers or performing its duties and functions in accordance with the objective set out in paragraph (1)(a), the Board must take into account the well-being of residents of Canada outside the designated area.

P.O. Box 1360, 29 Mitik Street  
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0  
Telephone: (867) 983-4600  
Facsimile: (867) 983-2594

## SIGNATURE PAGE

THIS PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE DECISION REPORT WAS AUTHORIZED FOR RELEASE BY THE NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD ON THIS 22 DAY OF DECEMBER 2022.



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Marjorie Kaviq Kaluraq  
Chairperson



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Allen Maghagak  
Vice Chairperson



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Catherine Emrick  
Board Member



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Phillip (Omingmakyok) Kadlun  
Board Member



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Albert Ehloak  
Board Member



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Guy Alikut  
Board Member



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Henry Ohokannoak  
Board Member

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## Executive Summary

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) has prepared and issued this Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Report to provide a summary of the discussions and outcomes resulting from the Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference held in Rankin Inlet on November 23 to 25, 2022. These proceedings were held as part of the NIRB's reconsideration of the terms and conditions of the Meliadine Gold Mine Project Certificate No. 006 for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's "Meliadine Extension" Project Proposal NIRB File No. 11MN034 (Extension Proposal or Proposal).

As set out in more detail in the report that follows, the Board has decided that it is premature to schedule the Public Hearing for this file. The Board and parties require additional information necessary to conduct a thorough and complete assessment of the potential for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts for all components of the Extension Proposal.

The Board's decision considered whether the scheduling of a Public Hearing was reasonable, given the resolution of technical issues and advancement of understanding of the Proposal and its potential impacts on the ecosystemic and socio-economic environments amongst interested parties and potentially affected communities. The Board considered the following to decide whether it was reasonable to schedule an in-person Public Hearing:

- The information requests and technical review comments provided by parties, and follow up discussion at the Technical Meeting;
- The questions, comments, and closing statements provided by community members and the public during the Community Roundtable;
- The feedback of parties during the Pre-Hearing Conference;
- The updates, responses, and commitments provided by the Proponent; and
- The written comments provided by parties on the Proponent's December 1, 2022 Commitments List and outstanding issues.

The Board has concluded that, although the Proponent and parties have been working together to address outstanding issues, there are significant outstanding information requests and technical review comments that parties have indicated are necessary to be addressed before they can complete their technical review of the Extension Proposal in respect of the following items:

- Impacts to caribou;
- Water management;
- In-pit tailings and waste rock disposal;
- Waterlines alignment, crossings, and coverings;
- The windfarm; and
- The airstrip.

The Board and parties require sufficient information to assess the potential for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts associated with the Extension Proposal in order 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.

As the assessment process continues, the Board will provide additional details, including updated process and timelines for the next steps. All parties are advised that the Board's proposed next steps are subject to change at the Board's discretion to reflect changes to circumstances, such as revisions to the timing of submission of the outstanding information by Agnico Eagle, determinations by the Board regarding the adequacy of the information received, logistical challenges, previously scheduled commitments on the Board's calendar, *etc.* 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**;
- 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).

In closing, the Board would like to thank all the Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference participants for their participation, cooperation, and efforts to work together as the Board conducts its proceedings. The Board is grateful for the contributions of all participants to the successful completion of these important steps in the Board's process.





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## Sommaire

La Commission du Nunavut chargée de l'examen des répercussions (la CNER ou la Commission) a produit et publié son Rapport décisionnel de la conférence préparatoire à l'audience, résumant les discussions et les résultats de la réunion technique, de la table ronde communautaire et de la conférence pré-audience qui ont eu lieu du 23 au 25 novembre 2022 à Rankin Inlet. Ces délibérations s'inscrivaient dans le réexamen par la CNER des modalités et conditions du certificat no.006 du projet de mine d'or Meliadine et ce, aux fins de la proposition de Mines Agnico Eagle Limité « d'Expansion de la Meliadine », no. de référence 11MN034 de la CNER (La proposition d'Expansion ou la proposition).

Tel qu'amplement détaillé dans le rapport ci-après, la Commission a jugé prématuré de programmer une audience publique pour ce dossier. La Commission et les parties réclament des renseignements supplémentaires afin d'entreprendre une rigoureuse et complète évaluation des potentielles répercussions écosystémiques et socio-économiques de toutes les composantes de la proposition d'expansion de la mine.

Pour en arriver à sa décision, la Commission a examiné la rationalité de la tenue d'une audience publique en tenant compte du règlement des questions techniques et de l'avancement de la compréhension de la proposition et de ses potentielles incidences écosystémiques et socio-économiques, chez les parties intéressées et les collectivités touchées. La Commission a analysé les éléments suivants afin de déterminer s'il était ou non raisonnable de programmer une audience publique en présentiel:

- Les demandes d'information et les commentaires de l'examen technique formulés par les parties et la discussion qui a suivi lors de la réunion technique;
- Les questions, commentaires et conclusions des membres de la collectivité et du public au cours de la table ronde communautaire;
- La rétroaction des parties pendant la conférence pré-audience;
- Les mises à jour, les réponses et les engagements du promoteur; et
- Les commentaires écrits des parties prenantes vis-à-vis de la liste d'engagements du promoteur et des questions en suspens au 1<sup>er</sup> décembre 2022.

Même si le promoteur et les parties se sont conjointement attaqués au règlement des questions en suspens, les parties ont indiqué qu'un nombre important de demandes latentes et de commentaires issus de l'examen technique devaient être traités avant qu'elles puissent terminer leur révision technique de la proposition en ce qui concerne les points suivants:

- Répercussions sur les caribous;
- Gestion de l'eau;
- Évacuation des stériles et des résidus miniers;
- Alignement des conduites d'eau, traverses et revêtements;
- Le champ éolien; et
- La bande d'atterrissage.

La Commission et les parties réclament des renseignements en nombre suffisant pour pouvoir évaluer les potentielles répercussions écosystémiques et socio-économiques de la proposition d'expansion et entamer les étapes suivantes de la procédure. Dans l'attente, la Commission encourage le promoteur et les parties à régler conjointement les questions en suspens, à la satisfaction de toutes les parties concernées et d'aviser régulièrement la CNER de la résolution ou non des questions toujours en suspens au fur et à mesure de l'évolution de l'évaluation.

Au fur et à mesure du déroulement du processus, la Commission fournira des détails supplémentaires, incluant des mises à jour et le calendrier des étapes suivantes. Elle tient à aviser toutes les parties qu'elle peut, à son gré, modifier les prochaines étapes pour s'adapter aux imprévus, comme la révision de la date de présentation par Mines Agnico Eagle des renseignements latents, la détermination par la Commission de la pertinence des informations reçues, des problèmes logistiques, des engagements de la Commission préalablement programmés, *etc.* La Commission a proposé les étapes suivantes, notamment:

- Organiser des séances d'information communautaire à Tadoule Lake et à Lac Brochet au Manitoba;
- Mines Agnico Eagle dépose auprès de la Commission, avant le **31 janvier 2023**, tous les renseignements que le promoteur s'est engagé à fournir aux parties prenantes;
- Les parties prenantes et les membres intéressés de la population soumettent, avant le **28 février 2023**, leurs commentaires sur les renseignements supplémentaires fournis; et
- Au cours de la **semaine du 13 au 17 mars 2023**, la Commission organisera une conférence pré-audience d'une demi-journée (via téléconférence) afin de revoir les questions techniques et de discuter des étapes suivantes.

En terminant, la Commission aimerait remercier tous les participants de la réunion technique, de la table ronde communautaire et de la conférence préparatoire à l'audience de leur présence, leur coopération et leur volonté de travailler conjointement pendant les procédures de la Commission. La CNER tient à les remercier de leurs contributions qui lui ont permis de terminer avec succès ces importantes étapes du processus.



## 1. Introduction

The objective of the Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Report is to provide further direction and guidance regarding the next stage in the Board's assessment of Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's (Agnico Eagle) "Meliadine Extension" Project Proposal (Extension Proposal or Proposal). The Report provides the next steps and a proposed timeline to complete the technical review stage of the Proposal leading into an eventual Public Hearing.

This Report provides a brief overview of the proceedings and issues discussed by parties and community members during the Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference components of the Board's assessment of the Extension Proposal and provides the Board's direction on the remaining steps in the assessment. These meetings and the Report are in accordance with the mandate and objectives of the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) established under Article 12 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and Part 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)*.

A complete project description and all documentation associated with the NIRB's assessment of the Proposal can be accessed from the Board's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125684](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125684).



**Photo 1: The "Meliadine Extension" Proposal Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference**

## **2. The Project Proposal and Procedure**

### **2.1. The Project Proposal Description and Scope**

The scope of activities described within the Meliadine Extension Proposal includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

#### **Infrastructure at Meliadine Mine Site**

- Addition of underground mining at the Pump, F Zone, and Discovery deposits, which were previously approved for open-pit mining
- Development of a new portal and associated infrastructure, including two (2) access roads to the Tiriganiaq-Wolf deposit
- 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, and road to Discovery and other deposits
- Extension of the operation phase (i.e. mine life) by 11 years to 2043
- Increase in employment to 905 employees
- 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, and tank farm

#### **Ore Management**

- Additional temporary ore stockpiles adjacent to Pump, F Zone, Tiriganiaq-Wolf, and Discovery



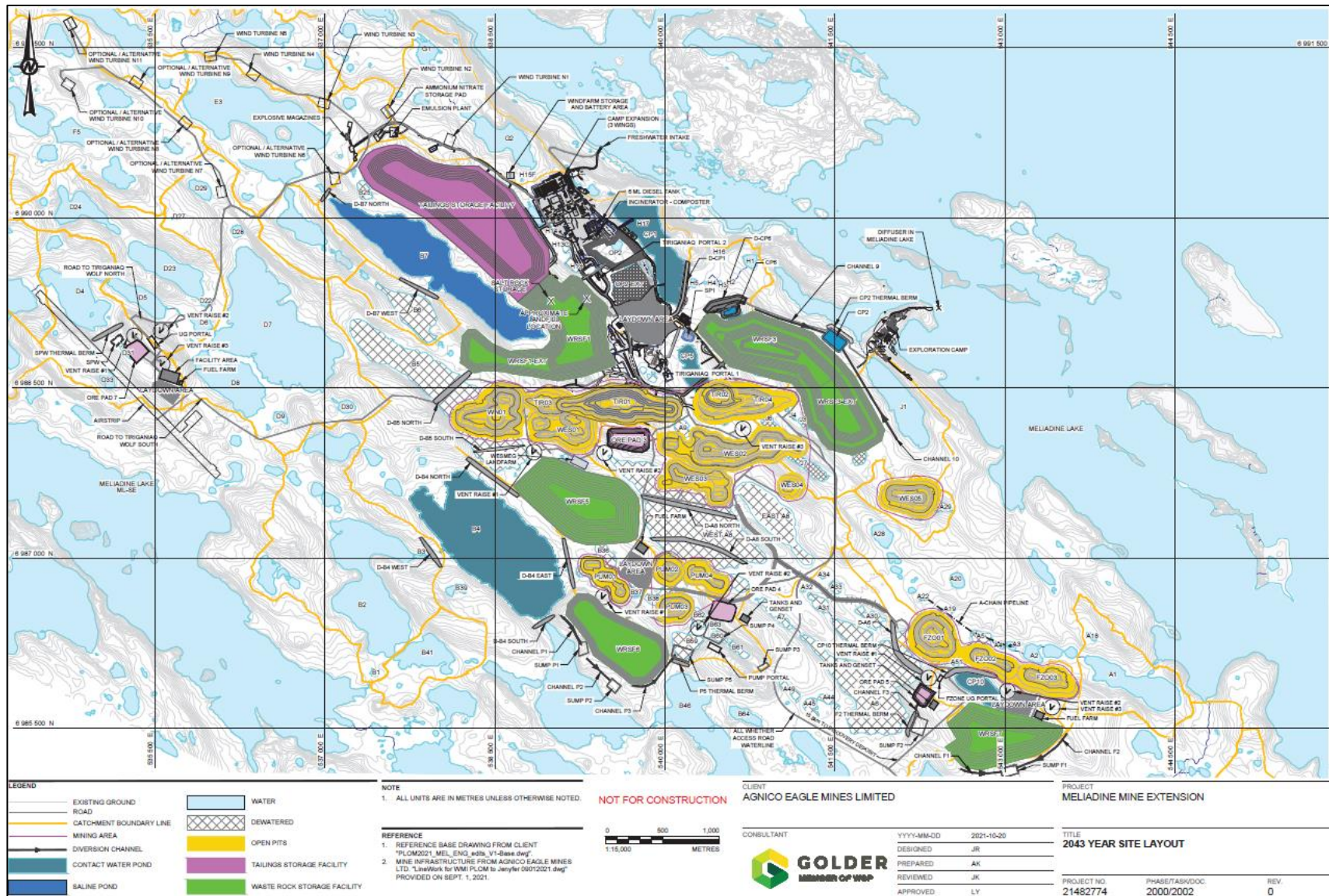


Figure 1: Meliadine Extension – Mine Site



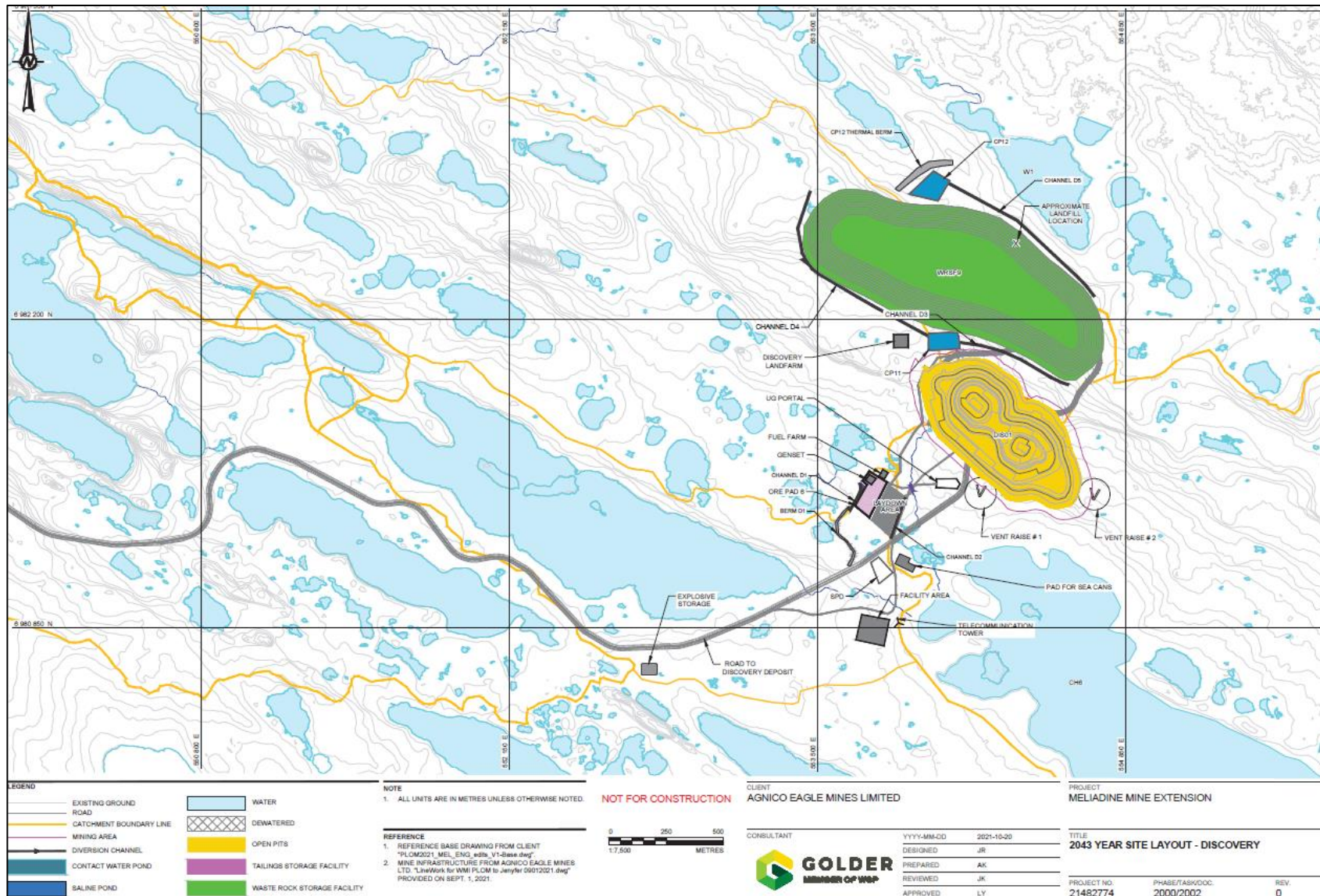
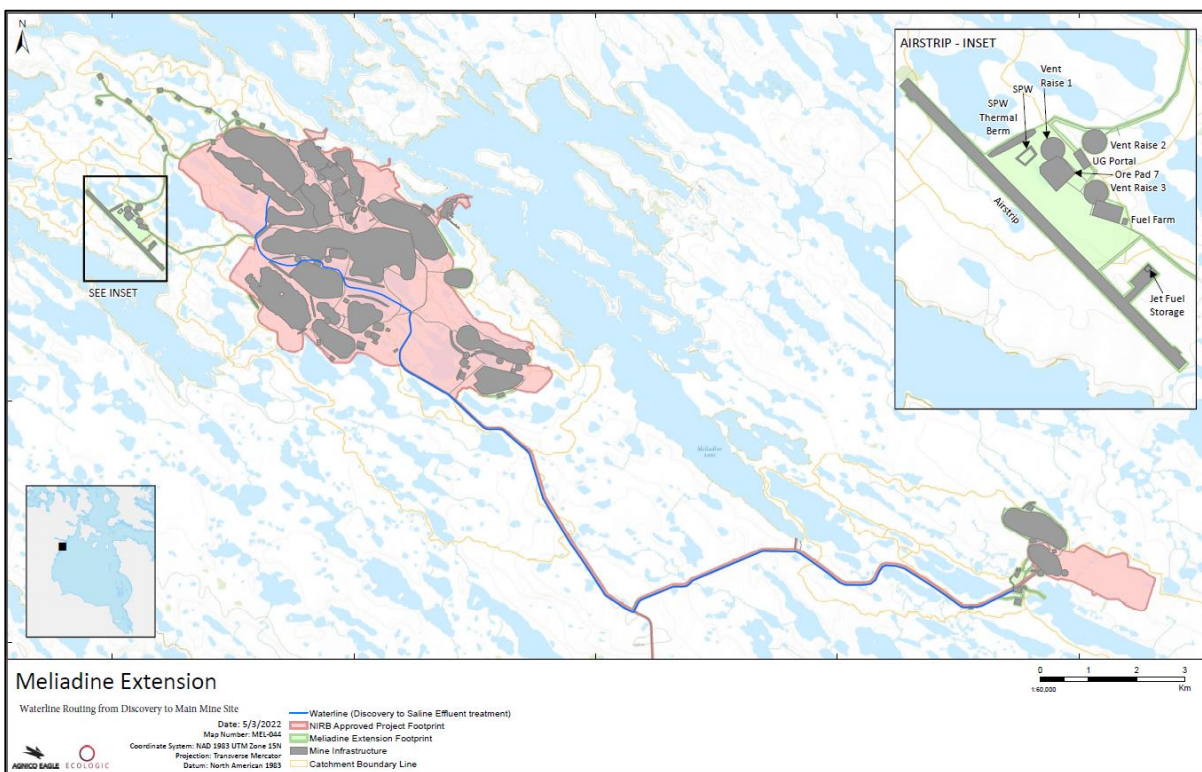


Figure 2: Meliadine Extension - Discovery Site

## Water Management Infrastructure

- Continued use of the previously approved waterlines, marine pipeline, and diffuser for discharge of saline effluent (salty groundwater) and surface contact water 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, water intake, and 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
- Option for storage of saline effluent in exhausted pits

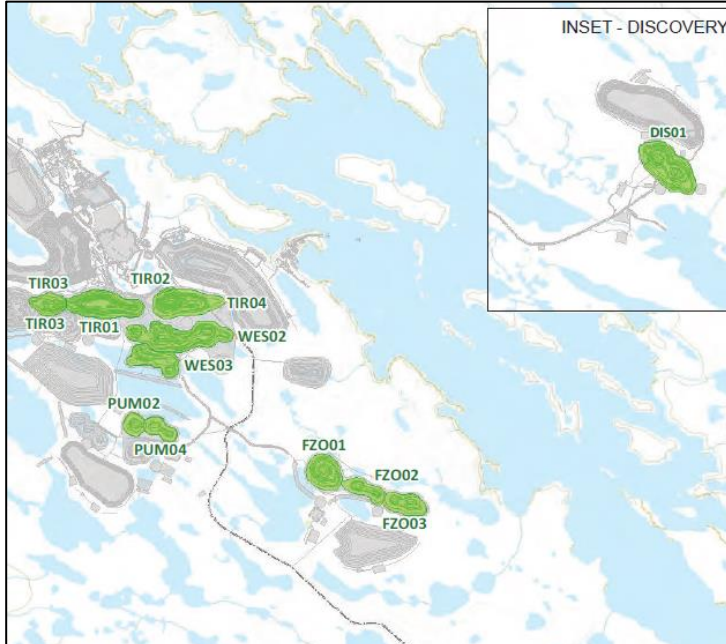


**Figure 3: Meliadine Extension Footprint**





**Figure 4: Alternative - Exhausted Pits for Tailings Storage**



**Figure 5: Alternative - Exhausted Pits for Waste Rock Storage**

## **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 one (1) 50,000 litres (L) tank and four (4) 75,000 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;

## 2.2. Procedural History

[Table 1](#) highlights key procedural steps associated with the Board’s assessment of the Extension Proposal and associated reconsideration of the terms and conditions of the Meliadine Gold Mine Project Certificate No. 006, up to and including the receipt of comments from parties on the Agnico Eagle’s December 1, 2022 version of the Commitments List. As this summary is not exhaustive, parties wishing to develop a more complete understanding of the activities associated with the NIRB’s assessment of the Proposal are encouraged to consult the complete listing of all documentation available from the NIRB’s online Public Registry. A list of acronyms is provided in [Appendix A](#).

**Table 1: Procedural History of the Board’s Assessment of the Proposal to Date**

DATE	PARTY	PROCESS STEPS	NOTES
April 1, 2022	Nunavut Planning Commission	Conformity determination issued with referral to the NIRB for assessment	Positive conformity determination with Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan; proposal determined to be a significant modification to approved Project.
May 4, 2022	Agnico Eagle	FEIS Addendum submitted	Agnico Eagle provided a completed application after a completeness check by the NIRB.
June 7, 2022	Parties	Comments submitted to NIRB	By request of the NIRB on May 24, 2022, parties submitted comments on the proposed activities.
June 22, 2022	NIRB	Notice of Reconsideration to Minister of Northern Affairs	Correspondence initiated a formal reconsideration of the terms and conditions of Project Certificate No. 006 having determined that the Proposal constituted a significant modification to the approved Project as previously assessed.
July 15, 2022	NIRB	Guidance to Proponent for Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Addendum submission	Specific information requirements for the submission of a FEIS Addendum in support of the Proposal.
July 26, 2022	Agnico Eagle	FEIS Addendum submission	Proponent submitted additional documentation to finalize the FEIS Addendum submission.
August 1, 2022	Responsible Ministers	Direction from Responsible Ministers	Responsible Ministers provided correspondence giving guidance for the focus of the NIRB’s assessment.
August 5, 2022	NIRB	NIRB accepts FEIS Addendum and initiates technical review process	NIRB initiated technical review by requesting parties submit information requests. Correspondence included anticipated process timelines.
August 22, 2022	CIRNAC	Participant Funding awarded	Correspondence announced successful applicants for participant funding after distribution of applications by CIRNAC and the NIRB on July 5, 2022.

DATE	PARTY	PROCESS STEPS	NOTES
September 23, 2022	NIRB	Public Notice of Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference	Formal notice of Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference to be held November 22-25, 2022, in Rankin Inlet.
September 6, 2022	Parties	Information Requests (IRs) submitted to NIRB	IRs submitted by parties, NIRB forwarded to Proponent on September 9, 2022.
September 6-14, 2020	NIRB	Community Information Sessions in potentially affected communities	NIRB held in-person sessions in Arviat, Baker Lake, Nauyasat, Rankin Inlet, and Whale Cove. Due to weather, session was held by radio on October 28, 2022 in Chesterfield Inlet.
September 26, 2022	Agnico Eagle	IR Response Package submitted	Agnico Eagle provided response to parties' IRs.
September 26, 2022	NIRB	Commence technical review period	Request for submission of technical review comments from interested parties.
October 17, 2022	NIRB	Request for community representatives	Correspondence sent to impacted communities seeking nomination of community representatives to attend the Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference.
October 4, 2022	Parties	Technical review comments submitted	Comments received from parties and forwarded to the Proponent (and other parties as applicable).
November 8, 2022	Agnico Eagle	Response to technical review comments	Agnico Eagle responds to parties with additional responses provided on November 16, 2022.
November 14, 2022	NIRB	Logistics and Final Agenda circulated	After incorporation of comments received on the <i>Draft</i> Agenda circulated on October 21, 2022, the final agenda was distributed to parties.
November 17, 2022	Agnico Eagle	Materials submitted	Presentation materials for the Technical Meeting and Community Roundtable filed with the Board.
November 22, 2022	Agnico Eagle	Commitments List	Commitments List for the Technical Meeting filed with the Board.
November 23-25	NIRB	Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference	After a weather delay on November 22, 2022, meetings were able to proceed in Rankin Inlet with slight agenda modifications.
December 1, 2022	Agnico Eagle	Commitments List	As requested in the Pre-Hearing Conference, Agnico Eagle submitted an updated list of commitments.
December 8, 2022	Parties	Comments received on Commitments List	Parties submitted comments on whether they agree with the Commitments List and whether any technical issues remain unresolved.

### 3. Participant Funding

On August 22, 2022, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) awarded funding to the following Northern Participant Funding Program applicants to assist with their participation in the NIRB's assessment of the Proposal:

- Kivalliq Inuit Association
- Northlands Denesuline First Nation
- Sayisi Dene First Nation

Although the assessment has not yet reached the stage of participants requesting Intervenor status prior to the Public Hearing, the NIRB's practice has been to accept that organizations receiving participant funding would be recognized as Intervenor status in the NIRB's assessment of the Proposal. Intervenor status in the NIRB's Public Hearings are allowed to question the Proponent, Authorizing Agencies, Designated Inuit Organizations, and other interested parties, and have set time on the Agenda to present their positions on the Proposal and discuss issues and concerns.

### 4. Conduct of Proceedings

#### 4.1. Technical Meeting

Due to weather issues that caused travel disruptions, the start of the Technical Meeting (TM) was delayed by one day and was held on November 23-24, 2022.<sup>1</sup> The Technical Meeting was an opportunity to bring technical reviewers together with the Proponent and Board's staff to address technical issues associated with the FEIS Addendum. A goal of the Technical Meeting was to achieve further clarity and/or resolution on topics where reviewers had questions, or did not support the methodology, analyses or conclusions contained in the FEIS Addendum.



**Photo 2: Technical Meeting**

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<sup>1</sup> The Technical Meeting was conducted under Rule 18 of the NIRB's *Rules of Procedure* (September 3, 2009).



## **Participants**

The Technical Meeting was facilitated by NIRB staff, and the following parties participated:

- Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI)
- Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA)
- Government of Nunavut (GN)
- Government of Canada represented by the following departments, coordinated through Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO):
  - Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)
  - Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
  - Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
  - Health Canada (HC)
  - Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)
  - Transport Canada (TC)
- Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization (KHTO)
- Northlands Denesuline First Nation (NDFN)
- Sayisi Dene First Nation (SDFN)

A full summary list of participants can be found in [Appendix B](#) of this report.



**Photo 3: Site Maps Available at Technical Meeting**



**Photo 4: Discovery Waterline Example**

## **Technical Meeting Presentations**

The Agenda describes the key topics discussed during the Technical Meeting ([Appendix C](#)). Agnico Eagle started each topic with a short presentation to facilitate discussion. All presented material can be found on the NIRB's Public Registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125684](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125684) or by searching the Document ID numbers (Doc ID No.) presented in [Table 2](#).



**Table 2: Technical Meeting Presentation Material**

<b>Presentation Topic</b>	<b>Doc ID No.</b>
<b>Overview Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project design and rationale, description of project components including construction, operation, and removal/reclamation</li> <li>▪ Public engagement and community response update</li> <li>▪ Conclusions presented in the FEIS Addendum pertaining to alternatives assessment and methodologies</li> </ul>	342163
<b>Atmospheric Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Climate change assessment, air quality, noise and vibration, <i>etc.</i></li> </ul>	342164
<b>Terrestrial Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Soils and terrain, permafrost, vegetation, terrestrial wildlife, <i>etc.</i></li> </ul>	342165
Additional terrestrial visual aids presented by the GN to help describe technical comments	342267 342268
<b>Freshwater Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hydrology, hydrogeology, water quality, fish and fish habitat, <i>etc.</i></li> </ul>	342166
<b>Marine Environment Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Marine environment, marine wildlife, <i>etc.</i></li> </ul>	342167
<b>Socio-Economic Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Economic development, education and training, traditional and non-traditional land use, <i>etc.</i></li> </ul>	342168
<b>Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment &amp; Accidents and Malfunctions Presentation</b>	342169

### **Commitments List**

In advance of the Technical Meeting, the Proponent made 18 commitments intended to address the information requests and technical review comments. As the Proponent and parties continued discussions on technical issues and commitments throughout the Technical Meeting, the Board requested that Agnico Eagle submit an updated list of commitments on December 1, 2022. The updated list of commitments contains a total of 47 commitments.<sup>2</sup> On December 8, 2022, parties submitted comments on whether they agree with Agnico Eagle's updated Commitments List provided on December 1, 2022, and to also indicate whether any technical issues remain unresolved. Based on the feedback from several parties, the Board acknowledges that finalized wording of commitments has yet to be agreed to by all parties and there are several unresolved issues that have been flagged by parties as unaddressed. Thus, the Board encourages the Proponent and parties to continue to work together and keep the Board advised as issues are resolved, and wording of specific commitments is agreed to and finalized.

<sup>2</sup> Public Registry ID: 342255

## 4.2. Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference

### 4.2.1. Community Roundtable

On November 24-25, 2022, the NIRB's Chairperson and staff facilitated the Community Roundtable (CRT) in Rankin Inlet. The Community Roundtable is a key step in the NIRB's process, allowing designated community representatives and members of the public an opportunity to raise comments and questions regarding the Extension Proposal, with the Proponent and parties present. Simultaneous interpretation in Inuktitut was available throughout the meetings, as well as translation of presented materials to ensure accessibility to participants in both languages.

The objectives of the Community Roundtable were:

- To provide information to the delegated community representatives and general public about the Extension Proposal and its relation to the approved Meliadine Gold Mine Project;
- To encourage all community representatives and members of the public in attendance to ask questions about the Proposal, its potential impacts and the Proponent's proposed environmental management, mitigation, and monitoring plans; and
- To provide opportunities to community representatives and members of the public in Rankin Inlet to share their knowledge, comments on the Proposal, and to provide their input to the Board.



**Photo 5: Community Roundtable**



**Photo 6: Public Speaking at the Community Roundtable**

## **Participation**

Community representatives were appointed by designated organizations from the following impacted communities to attend the Community Roundtable:

- Arviat
- Baker Lake
- Chesterfield Inlet
- Coral Harbour
- Naujaat
- Rankin Inlet
- Whale Cove
- Northlands Denesuline First Nation
- Sayisi Dene First Nation

The meetings were also advertised to the public of Rankin Inlet. Both community representatives and members of the public were provided time to ask questions about the Proposal to the Proponent and parties, and provide comments and concerns about the Proposal to the Board.

The Proponent and parties, as presented in section [4.1](#), were in attendance and available to answer comments and questions from the community representatives and public. A full summary list of participants can be found in [Appendix B](#) of this report.

## **Community Roundtable Presentation**

Agnico Eagle provided a summary presentation for the “Meliadine Extension” Proposal directed to community representatives and the public. The presentation was delivered on the first evening session of the Community Roundtable to accommodate members of the public who work during the day and therefore likely missed presentations and discussions that occurred throughout the Technical Meeting. The presentation can be found on the NIRB’s Public Registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125684](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125684) or by searching the document ID number presented in [Table 3](#).

**Table 3: Community Roundtable Presentation**

Presentation Topic	Doc ID No.
Summary Presentation of the “Meliadine Extension” Proposal	342170



#### 4.2.2. Pre-Hearing Conference

The Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) provides the Board, the Proponent, and parties a forum to discuss process and procedural issues associated with the progression of the assessment to the Public Hearing stage.



**Photo 7: Pre-Hearing Conference**

Following completion of the Community Roundtable, the Pre-Hearing Conference was held on the afternoon of November 25, 2022, to discuss the following matters:

1. Identification of any issues required prior to convening of a Public Hearing.
2. Discussion and facilitation of the Public Hearing processes:
  - a. Anticipated date, time, form, and location(s) for the Public Hearing;
  - b. Timetable for the exchange of additional documents and information requests prior to the Public Hearing;
  - c. Confirmation of commitments list by parties;
  - d. Finalization of issues for the Public Hearing, and identification of interested parties to attend the Public Hearing;

- e. Logistics arrangement, equipment, language, interpretation, translation, and transcript requirements; and
- f. Other matters that may aid in the simplification of the Public Hearing.

### 3. Closing remarks from parties

As further described in section [7.2](#), the discussions of exchanging additional documents and confirmation of the Commitments List, items 2(b) and 2(c) respectively, were deferred to be conducted in writing following the close of the in-person meetings. The NIRB also advised that finalization of issues for the Public Hearing, item 2(d), may be further refined through the outcome of ongoing discussions and the submission of the Commitments List.

Please refer to the Agenda for more information about the key topics discussed during the Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference (see [Appendix C](#)).

## 5. Summary of Submissions from Parties, Community Representatives and Public

### 5.1. Information Requests and Technical Review Comments

The NIRB provided interested parties with the opportunity to submit information requests proceeded by technical review comments on the “Meliadine Extension” Proposal, on August 5, 2022 and September 26, 2022, respectively. Following the Board’s receipt of information requests and technical review comments, the Proponent was provided an opportunity to respond. [Table 4](#) contains a summary of the number of information requests and technical review comments received by each party, all comments can be accessed via the NIRB’s public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125684](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125684) or by searching for the below Document ID numbers.

**Table 4: Information Requests and Technical Review Comments**

Party	Information Requests (IR)	Technical Review Comments (TRC)	Doc ID Nos.
Kivalliq Inuit Association	16	13	IR: 341601 TRC: 341993 & 341994
Government of Nunavut	7	14	IR: 341611 TRC: 341996
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	15	7	IR: 341616 & 341617 TRC: 341995
Environment and Climate Change Canada	13	13	
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	22	10	
Health Canada	6	18	
Natural Resources Canada	20	10	



Transport Canada	0	3	
Northlands Denesuline First Nation Sayisi Dene First Nation	4	4	IR: 341602 TRC: 341992

## 5.2. Comment Summaries from the Technical Meeting

The following sections summarize parties technical review comments as presented in the Technical Meeting on November 23-24, 2022. The summary table is provided for the convenience of reviewers, but parties are cautioned that the summary is not a verbatim record of comments provided, and has been summarized and organized by the Board staff according to topic.

### 5.2.1. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Terrestrial Environment	<b>Caribou:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shut down of airstrip and windfarm during critical caribou migration times</li> <li>Roads and bridges allow increased access by hunters, leading to management challenges by the KHTO and KIA</li> </ul> <b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site shuts down when caribou are in the vicinity, dependant on location of caribou</li> <li>Agnico Eagle would work with parties to discuss airstrip closures</li> <li>Running the windfarm would be based on winds with ongoing monitoring</li> </ul>
	<b>Terrestrial Advisory Group (TAG):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing concerns with TAG Terms of Reference with Hunters and Trappers Organizations, KIA, and Kivalliq Wildlife Board</li> <li>Because it's an advisory group, the TAG doesn't necessarily have the strength that a term and condition may have</li> </ul> <b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The TAG has been shown to function for the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project</li> <li>Whether or not the TAG functions, Agnico Eagle must follow the Terrestrial Environment Management and Monitoring Plan</li> </ul>
Freshwater Environment	<b>Water Management:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possibility of eliminating discharge to Meliadine Lake</li> </ul> <b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can reduce discharge to a very low amount but cannot eliminate</li> </ul>
Socio-Economic Environment	<b>Traditional and Non-traditional Land Use:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is Discovery Road going to be built over the ATV trail, how many cabins are in that area?</li> </ul>

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
	<b>Training and Employment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Inuit employment</li> <li>• Need more engagement at the high school level</li> </ul> <b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New programs being developed for Inuit training and employment (including Apprenticeship Program and Sanajiksanut Program)</li> <li>• Recently working on renewing relationships with education system after COVID-19</li> <li>• Discussions of a mine training school</li> </ul>
HHERA	<b>Dust Management:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What mitigation measures are used for dry stack tailings dust management</li> </ul> <b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snow, water, Zamboni-like machine to apply a thin layer of ice</li> </ul>

### 5.2.2. Kivalliq Inuit Association

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Terrestrial Environment	<b>Caribou:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough information to properly assess impacts to caribou</li> <li>• Need to consider post-calving and hunting areas when modelling and presenting the windfarm</li> <li>• Request for full assessment of caribou deflection on the road</li> </ul> <b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footprint changes are minor compared to Qamanirjuaq caribou herd range</li> <li>• TAG will be meeting in December with plans to discuss the Windfarm Management Plan</li> <li>• The assessment uses a 14 Kilometre (Km) zone of influence which is similar to Ekati and Diavik Diamond Mines which has wind turbines</li> <li>• Agnico Eagle will meet with technical experts to discuss collar data</li> </ul>
	<b>Terrestrial Advisory Group (TAG):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAG has not yet formed therefore cannot manage items being deferred</li> </ul> <b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hoping TAG members sign Terms of Reference soon</li> <li>• Meeting in December 2022</li> </ul>
	<b>Related KIA Technical Review Comments:</b> 1, 2, 3 <b>Related Draft Commitments:</b> 5, 6, 38
Freshwater Environment	<b>In-Pit Deposition:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough information is present on waste rock and tailings in-pit deposition for a proper assessment</li> </ul>

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meadowbank Gold Mine Project in-pit tailings information is not sufficient to assess this component at the Meliadine site</li> <li>• Assessment should not be left for the NWB Process</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The majority of the in-pit deposition assessment will happen at the NWB process</li> <li>• Pits are already disturbed areas that are planned to be flooded at closure</li> </ul> <p><b>Water Management:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns with water modelling</li> <li>• Reduction of discharges to Meliadine Lake important to Rankin Inlet</li> <li>• Is there a plan B to avoid emergency applications for discharge?</li> <li>• Concerns with calculations from the 2014 FEIS and possibility of needing a third waterline from the mine site to Itivia Harbour (dual waterlines)</li> <li>• Capacity of the dual waterlines to handle increased saline effluent and high precipitation events</li> <li>• Interaction between taliks and saline effluent stored in exhausted pits</li> <li>• Adaptive management currently not functioning</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site movement of water will be covered in the NWB process</li> <li>• Adaptive management and current/proposed infrastructure at site will be able to manage increased water; adaptive management mitigation measures have not all been triggered yet</li> <li>• A third waterline is not needed</li> <li>• Pits will be assessed for interaction with taliks before saline effluent storage</li> </ul> <p><b>Related KIA Technical Review Comments:</b> 4, 5, 7, 8, 9  <b>Related Draft Commitments:</b> 15, 16</p>
Socio-Economic Environment	<p><b>Food Security:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why is the effect on nutrition and access to country food expected to be positive?</li> <li>• Long-term mine impacts on caribou and fish habitat and the effects it will have to country food</li> <li>• Access to country foods as part of the Extension Proposal</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunter Harvest Surveys have indicated that the proportion of people catching caribou along route has remained the same before and after road construction</li> <li>• Employment increases accessibility through the ability to purchase all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, ammunition, <i>etc.</i></li> <li>• Agnico Eagle makes monetary contributions to food security issues</li> </ul> <p><b>Employment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide figure of employee retention from start to current</li> </ul>

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
	<b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KIA has access to these numbers in Agnico Eagle's quarterly reports</li> </ul>
	<b>Related KIA Technical Review Comments:</b> 10, 11, 12, 13
HHERA	<b>Water Quality:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality exceedances and actions</li> <li>Phosphorus levels</li> </ul> <b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality exceedances and actions are reported under monitoring</li> <li>Phosphorus levels are above baseline but still within the normal range</li> </ul>

### 5.2.3. Government of Nunavut

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Project Description	<b>Scope:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The AWAR should be considered within the scope of this Proposal because of the temporal change in the Project</li> </ul> <b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The AWAR should not be considered as existing management plans can adapt to changes</li> </ul> <b>NIRB Response</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NIRB scope for the Extension Proposal includes the ongoing use of the AWAR</li> </ul>
Terrestrial Environment	<b>Caribou:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request for viewshed analysis of the current project compared to the proposed project</li> <li>Collar caribou movement split between project stages</li> <li>Caribou study area should be updated</li> <li>Update collared caribou interaction with road analysis</li> <li>Request for records of road closures from caribou</li> <li>Discussion as to why the windfarm cannot be shut down during caribou migration</li> <li>Clarification and justification for selected zone of influence</li> </ul> <b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GN to provide caribou collar data</li> <li>Agnico Eagle will work with GN on the study area</li> <li>Not necessary to shut down windfarm when caribou are in the area as movement and behaviour will be monitored</li> </ul>

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zones of influence chosen based on Government of Northwest Territories regulations for the Bathurst Caribou Plan</li> <li>• Viewshed analysis is included in volume 9 of the 2014 FEIS</li> <li>• The data sharing agreement for collared caribou data has not yet been completed</li> <li>• GN should present collared caribou data and animations to the entire TAG</li> </ul> <p><b>Related GN Technical Review Comments:</b> 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11  <b>Related Draft Commitments:</b> 6, 35, 36, 37</p>
Socio-Economic Environment	<p><b>Employment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of employees from Nunavut</li> <li>• Training plans for youth to access positions available</li> <li>• Has Agnico Eagle employment returned to pre-pandemic levels?</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agnico Eagle tracks Inuit employment</li> <li>• Meliadine Extension Proposal jobs will be for skilled and semi-skilled positions</li> </ul> <p><b>Related GN Technical Review Comments:</b> 12, 13, 14  <b>Related Draft Commitments:</b> 34</p>
HHERA	<p><b>Land Use:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide additional information on land use to verify risk assessment</li> <li>• Verify assumption that people will not be using Lake B7 as a drinking water source, with high arsenic levels, add risks of emergency water use from this lake</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on community engagement people predominately take water from Meliadine Lake, someone may use Lake B7 for emergency purposes in short duration</li> </ul> <p><b>Related GN Technical Review Comments:</b> 2, 3, 4  <b>Related Draft Commitments:</b> 26, 27</p>

#### 5.2.4. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Project Design	<p><b>Discovery Waterline:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct, operate and decommission Discovery waterline using the same practices as the dual waterlines</li> <li>• Update spill contingency plan and water management plan</li> </ul>

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
	<b>Related CIRNAC Technical Review Comments: 1</b> <b>Related Draft Commitments: 11</b>
Freshwater Environment	<b>In-Pit Deposition:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require additional detail to assess in-pit deposition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geochemical assessment of tailings and waste rock</li> <li>Hydrogeological assessment (both quantity and quality)</li> <li>Updated water balance and water quality model</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with parties to evaluate in-pit deposition</li> <li>Thermal analysis will be done as part of the NWB process but will discuss with CIRNAC and NRCAN</li> </ul>
	<b>Water Management:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional information on water storage in exhausted pits</li> <li>Clarify steps to minimize discharge to Meliadine Lake</li> <li>Additional information on post-closure loadings to Tiriganiaq Pit Lake</li> <li>Evidence to support assumptions about post-closure seepage quality from reclaimed areas</li> </ul> <b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agnico Eagle already stores water in the existing Tiriganiaq Pit</li> <li>Will update water quality and water balance to NWB which will demonstrate minimizing discharge to Meliadine Lake and maximizing waterline usage</li> <li>Will follow up with CIRNAC regarding post-closure loadings and seepage</li> </ul>
	<b>Related CIRNAC Technical Review Comments: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</b> <b>Related Draft Commitments: 19, 20, 40, 41, 42</b>

#### 5.2.5. Environment and Climate Change Canada

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Atmospheric Environment	<b>Dust and Air Quality:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will dust suppressant be used at airstrip?</li> <li>Air quality prior to take-offs</li> </ul> <b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air quality monitoring and dust suppressant will follow that of the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project airstrip</li> </ul>



Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
	<p><b>Emissions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did assessment on power usage include wind turbine construction and de-icing?</li> <li>• Use of Tier 4 equipment</li> <li>• Impacts on carbon sinks</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the Proposal is approved, then Tier 4 equipment will be added to the mobile fleet</li> </ul> <p><b>Related ECCC Technical Review Comments:</b> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6</p> <p><b>Related Draft Commitments:</b> 3, 21</p>
Terrestrial Environment	<p><b>Birds and Bird Habitat:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bird impacts monitoring for one (1) year should cover full footprint, different seasons, and different life stages</li> <li>• If there are mortalities, monitoring should be extended to two (2) or three (3) years</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will reassess after one (1) year</li> </ul> <p><b>Related ECCC Technical Review Comments:</b> 11, 12, 13</p> <p><b>Related Draft Commitments:</b> 7, 22</p>
Freshwater Environment	<p><b>In-Pit Deposition:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full assessment needs to be done, disagree with leaving details to the NWB process</li> <li>• Assessment needs to be site specific, not based on Meadowbank Mine</li> <li>• Need information on movement of groundwater, upwelling through tailings moving contaminants out, monitoring</li> <li>• Are closure predictions presented based on dry stack tailings or in-pit tailings?</li> <li>• Co-mingling tailings and waste rock</li> <li>• Closure water coverage</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More analysis needed to consider co-mingling tailings and waste rock</li> <li>• Dry-stack tailings are used in current analysis</li> <li>• Closure will be specific to each pit</li> </ul> <p><b>Water Quality:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closure and regulations for Saline Pond B7</li> <li>• Arsenic levels</li> <li>• Fish repopulation</li> <li>• Management of de-icing contaminants at airstrip to avoid surface waters</li> </ul>

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
	<p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closure will be updated in Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan for NWB</li> <li>• 17 years of monitoring data will be able to inform the closure plan and how to manage arsenic</li> <li>• Discussions are ongoing for closure and remediation</li> <li>• Airstrip will have collection ditches and sumps to prevent de-icer spread</li> </ul> <p><b>Related ECCC Technical Review Comments:</b> 7, 8, 9  <b>Related Draft Commitments:</b> 15, 20, 40, 41, 42</p>

### 5.2.6. Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Freshwater Environment	<p><b>Fish and Fish Habitat:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns about deferring items until later processes</li> <li>• DFO relies on the NIRB process for satisfying consultation requirements</li> <li>• Impacts to fish and fish habitat have changed since the 2014 FEIS</li> <li>• Dewatering of waterbodies</li> <li>• Number of fish habitats destroyed versus offset</li> <li>• Arctic Char found in Lake A6</li> <li>• Additional information planned to be collected by Agnico Eagle</li> <li>• Monitoring details</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some items will happen through the NWB or DFO processes</li> <li>• Will work with DFO to determine what specific information is missing</li> <li>• The current footprint of Meliadine Mine is the same as the 2014 FEIS, but dewatering of some minor water bodies may have changed</li> <li>• Confirmation that Arctic Char was found in Lake A6</li> </ul> <p><b>Related DFO Technical Review Comments:</b> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10  <b>Related Draft Commitments:</b> 12, 17, 18, 44, 45, 46</p>
Marine Environment	<p><b>Shipping:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ship strike avoidance</li> <li>• Southampton Island area may be designated as a Marine Protected Area</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ship strikes are the responsibility of the shipping company</li> <li>• Wants to be involved in discussions of the Marine Protected Area</li> </ul>

### 5.2.7. Health Canada

Subject	Technical Meeting Issues
Project Description	<p><b>Scope:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification whether Agnico Eagle is seeking approval of the airstrip through this assessment</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional information will be provided if this alternative is chosen</li> </ul>
Atmospheric Environment	<p><b>Airstrip:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What changes will be made to monitoring with the addition of an airstrip</li> <li>• Unique parameters that current monitoring does not cover (i.e. lubricants and de-icer)</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An additional monitoring station would be added downwind of the airstrip</li> <li>• Not proposing changes in the parameters monitored</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Air Quality Modelling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validate baseline data with monitoring data and provide statistical differences and how the model performed</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Noise:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaint resolution process</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will maintain complaint resolution process and monitoring</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Related HC Technical Review Comments:</b> AQ01, AQ02, AQ03, AQ04, N01, N02, N03, N04</p> <p><b>Related Draft Commitments:</b> 23, 32</p>
HHERA	<p><b>Country Foods:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of soil quality data</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Land Use:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about who is using the area around the mine site and sources of drinking water</li> <li>• Map of receptor locations and monitoring stations</li> <li>• Additional information to support human receptors and assessment criteria; substance and scenario specific</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Related HC Technical Review Comments:</b> WQ01, HHRA01, HHRA02, HHRA03, HHRA04, HHRA05, HHRA06, CF01, CF02</p> <p><b>Related Draft Commitments:</b> 29, 30, 31</p>

### 5.2.8. Natural Resources Canada

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Freshwater Environment	<p><b>Groundwater / Saline Effluent:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns with receiving waterbody downstream of saline storage pond</li> <li>• Groundwater flow model without grouting</li> <li>• Experience and success rate of grouting</li> <li>• Potential impacts of saline effluent storage</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data prepared for NWB process and flow analysis shows change is negligible</li> <li>• Agnico Eagle will continue to grout so no purpose in making a model without grouting</li> <li>• Monitor pits with thermistors</li> <li>• Information regarding saline effluent storage will be provided to NWB</li> </ul>
	<p><b>In-Pit Deposition:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include in-pit deposition in the NIRB process to assess for impacts</li> <li>• Hydrogeological modelling for closure and post closure</li> <li>• Does the NIRB agree with Agnico Eagle's assessment approach</li> <li>• Needs details on both waste rock and tailings deposition</li> </ul> <p><b>NIRB Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If in-pit deposition is included then sufficient information for impact assessment is required, does not need to be the same level as detail as expected for NWB</li> <li>• The information must be site specific as the context of Meliadine Mine is different than Meadowbank Mine, however the Proponent may decide if any of this data is transferable between sites</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Waste Rock Storage Facility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitivity analysis with thermal monitoring considering climate change into closure and post-closure phases</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reasonably conservative model was used for analysis</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Related NRCAN Technical Review Comments:</b> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10  <b>Related Draft Commitments:</b> 15, 16, 20, 40, 41, 42</p>



### 5.2.9. Transport Canada

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Freshwater Environment	<b>Navigability:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of the navigability of the waterways that will be crossed by the proposed road north of Lake D7</li> </ul>
	<b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can provide this assessment as part of the NIRB process</li> </ul>
	<b>Related TC Technical Review Comments:</b> 3 <b>Related Draft Commitments:</b> 9

### 5.2.10. Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Project Design	<b>Windfarm and Airstrip Components:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possibility of extending mine life without the windfarm and airstrip components</li> <li>How far will the wind turbines be visible?</li> </ul> <b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Windfarm is being considered to reduce greenhouse gases</li> <li>Project can continue without the airstrip but not the windfarm</li> <li>Viewshed analysis</li> </ul>
Terrestrial Environment	<b>Caribou:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impacts of windfarm on caribou</li> </ul>
	<b>Terrestrial Advisory Group (TAG):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on establishment of TAG</li> <li>Can windfarm management plan be discussed in process as not all parties have signed onto the TAG yet</li> </ul> <b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not all TAG participants have signed the TAG Terms of Reference</li> <li>Can be discussed at the TAG meeting in December 2022</li> </ul>
Marine Environment	<b>Shipping:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are fuel barges project specific?</li> </ul> <b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shipping is done through shipping companies, so they determine the size of ship</li> </ul>
HHERA	<b>Methods:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How does Agnico Eagle get to the receptors chosen</li> </ul>

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
	<b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receptors are identified through community consultation for the model</li> </ul>
Other	<b>Public Engagement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How many times was the virtual meeting room visited</li> <li>Did community members besides those in elders' committee support in public engagement</li> <li>Did anyone during public engagement not support the project</li> </ul>

#### 5.2.11. Northlands Denesuline First Nation and Sayisi Dene First Nation

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Project Design	<b>Discovery Waterline:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More detail on the Discovery waterline as it is not the same as the dual waterlines</li> <li>Schematic of Discovery waterline crossing at the AWAR</li> </ul>
	<b>Wind turbines:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location of powerlines for wind turbines</li> <li>Pre-feasibility study for wind turbine location</li> </ul>
	<b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-feasibility is done by a consultant and based on wind analysis</li> </ul>
	<b>Related NDFN SDFN Technical Review Comments:</b> 1, 2 <b>Related Draft Commitments:</b> 25, 33
Terrestrial Environment	<b>Caribou:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Importance of caribou to Northlands Denesuline First Nation</li> <li>Proximity to calving grounds</li> <li>Wind turbines would be something new to caribou</li> <li>Request for pre-development imagery and viewshed analysis</li> <li>Caribou study area is not the same as the post-calving area</li> <li>Caribou sensitivity to noise, assessment is on human hearing levels</li> <li>Previous experience with development impacting caribou</li> <li>Concern that once caribou are impacted there is no returning</li> <li>Meliadine Mine footprint being a minor area in the caribou range does not mean that the impact will be minor</li> <li>Need for more accurate analysis of caribou migration and road closure</li> </ul> <b>Proponent Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agnico Eagle monitors caribou movement</li> <li>The caribou study area was developed with the GN and includes the post-calving area</li> </ul>

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caribou collaring program is completed by GN, hoping to finalize Data Sharing Agreement</li> <li>There are no guidelines for wildlife noise levels but the zone of influence was based off Ekati and Diavik Diamond Mines</li> <li>Caribou spend one to two weeks moving through the project, site shuts down when caribou are in the vicinity</li> <li>Only a fraction of the herd crosses the mine site</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Terrestrial Advisory Group (TAG):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAG Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understandings have not yet been finalized</li> <li>Concerned about the number of technical issues that have been postponed to TAG</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAG has had several meetings and will be a collaborative group</li> <li>Agnico Eagle understands the NDFN and SDFN are ready to sign the necessary documents</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Metal Leaching:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns on leaching area</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assesses and monitors metals leaching from rock as a mining requirement</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Birds:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diavik Diamond Mine is more inland and therefore likely to have fewer migratory birds encountering wind turbines</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will take TAG members to visit a windfarm location</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Related NDFN SDFN Technical Review Comments:</b> 1, 3, 4</p> <p><b>Related Draft Commitments:</b> 5, 24, 39, 43</p>

#### 5.2.12. Nunavut Impact Review Board

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Project Design	<p><b>Alternatives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proponent needs to provide sufficient information for the Board and parties to assess impacts within the NIRB process if alternatives are to be included within the scope</li> </ul>

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
	<p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agnico Eagle will provide an update to the NIRB on whether alternatives are to be included and if so, what additional information will be provided.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discovery Waterline:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details on the covering of Discovery waterline and crossing at AWAR</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discovery Waterline will be covered similar to dual waterlines</li> <li>• Schematic will be provided of AWAR crossing</li> </ul> <p><b>Related Draft Commitments:</b> 20, 25, 40, 41, 42, 47</p>
Terrestrial Environment	<p><b>Terrestrial Advisory Group:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how the advisory process functions within the TAG to create or update plans</li> <li>• Provide a list of management plans proposed to be updated for the Meliadine Extension through the TAG</li> <li>• Is lack of Terms of Reference impacting functionality of the TAG to review these plans if we're deferring items to the TAG?</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAG will review monitoring data, look at opportunities to improve monitoring, and remove any monitoring that is not adding value</li> <li>• Windfarm Management Plan and possibly the Terrestrial Environment Management and Monitoring Plan to be updated</li> <li>• TAG meeting in December 2022</li> <li>• TAG will be the best venue to discuss monitoring at the operational level</li> </ul> <p><b>Blasting Mitigation Measures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns heard from members of the public about blasting while caribou were in the vicinity</li> <li>• Does Agnico Eagle feel that current distance threshold is sufficient?</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feel that the 5 Km threshold is working</li> <li>• Do not blast at level three under the decision tree</li> </ul>
Socio-Economic Environment	<p><b>Employment and Training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detail how training and employment programs are different than existing programs</li> </ul> <p><b>Proponent Response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sanajiksanut program, pre-employment training, on the job training</li> <li>• Some skilled and semi-skilled positions reserved for Inuit employees</li> </ul>



### 5.3. Comment Summaries from the Community Roundtable

To facilitate the Community Roundtable portion of the Pre-Hearing Conference, the NIRB invited up to three (3) representatives from the seven (7) potentially affected Kivalliq communities: Arviat, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, Baker Lake, Nauyasat, and Coral Harbour. In addition, the Board invited a community representative from both Northlands Denesuline First Nation and from the Sayisi Dene First Nation in Manitoba to attend the Community Roundtable. In total, 14 community representatives participated in person during the Community Roundtable. The oral format of the meetings allowed the community representatives to:

- Hear presentations delivered by Agnico Eagle during the Technical Meeting as set out in the Agenda (section [4.1](#) and [Appendix C](#))
- Hear a summarized presentation about the Extension Proposal provided during the evening session of the Community Roundtable (section [4.2.1](#)); and
- Participate by sharing their knowledge and views, asking questions of the Proponent, parties and the NIRB, and expressing their comments with respect to the Extension Proposal.

The Community Roundtable concluded with each community providing a summary of their views in respect of the Extension Proposal in a closing statement. The Community Roundtable also allowed an opportunity for members of the public from Rankin Inlet to ask questions and raise concerns. [Table 5](#) summarizes the key comments, questions posed, and issues raised by community representatives and members of the public during the Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference. The summary table is provided for the convenience of reviewers, but parties are cautioned that the summary is not a verbatim record of comments provided, and has been summarized and organized by the Board staff according to topic.

**Table 5: Summary of Key Issues Raised by Community Representatives and Members of the Public in Rankin Inlet during the Community Roundtable**

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
<b>ECOSYSTEMIC EFFECTS</b>	
Air Emissions	Concerned about the dust from the roads and impacts on air quality for people and wildlife.
Airstrip	Concerned that construction of airstrip will damage caribou habitat and/or affect the movement of the caribou.
	Why does Agnico Eagle need to build another airstrip when the mine is so close to the Rankin Inlet airport?
Airstrip	We heard that the airstrip is located in an area where the weather is better than the Rankin Inlet airport. Is it really more likely that the planes can take off from the airstrip at the mine than from the airport?

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
	The community of Rankin Inlet does not want the airstrip constructed; we are opposed to that.
	Will the Hamlet, Agnico Eagle install landing instruments at the airstrip?
	Not in favour of the airstrip; even though Agnico Eagle says that it will produce less dust than driving workers to the site on the road, in the community we are more concerned that this creates an additional impact in terms of noise and an additional barrier for caribou in this area.
Air Traffic	How many planes will be using the airstrip?
	The vibration and noise associated with air traffic can affect the people with cabins near the mine and the wildlife (mainly caribou) and we are concerned about this?
Blasting/Explosives	Harvesters have seen the effects of blasting on the seals.
	There should be absolutely no blasting when caribou are present.
Caribou	Caribou can get used to the mines. They are walking through the mine site lately.
	Caribou move around the mines—Government of Nunavut has collared caribou, but they do not let us know where the caribou are going. Where are all the caribou going? We are seeing effects on caribou from the mines at Meliadine and Meadowbank, as they seem to be avoiding coming into the areas close to the mines.
	From the picture presented by Agnico Eagle, the caribou seem to be passing through a very narrow trail when crossing the road; it seems like it would be better if the trail would be wider as the caribou travel across the road. The slopes need to be flattened so that the road is closer to level with the surrounding area and there can be a wider area where the caribou are comfortable to cross.
	The mine has already disrupted caribou movement and impacted the caribou trails that you can see from air.
	Caribou are intelligent and if they sense danger or something new in the area they may go elsewhere and may not come back.
	Baker Lake lost access to the caribou when the mine came, and I don't want to see that in Rankin Inlet.
	How will the new road be constructed to ensure that the caribou can cross?

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Caribou	<p>Caribou migration and lifecycle is already affected by the mine; we are concerned about the additional effects likely to result from the Extension Proposal.</p>
	<p>Concerned that the additional infrastructure proposed in the Extension Proposal will create a “wall” that will create a barrier to free passage of caribou in this area, and these additions may end up preventing the caribou from coming by this area altogether.</p>
	<p>Although the caribou do cross the road, hunters have seen that they stop and sometimes circle back; eventually crossing, but cross not because they want to but because they have no choice; how long will it be before caribou learn to avoid the area.</p>
	<p>How did Agnico Eagle come up with the 50 individual caribou threshold to trigger road management? How does that reflect Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit because we know that before the big herd arrive, there are tens of caribou that are in the lead. If these first few caribou are not able to cross the road it can affect the larger herd. This number does not reflect Inuit knowledge that you should not interfere with the passage of the first smaller groupings of caribou.</p>
	<p>Does Agnico Eagle monitor caribou in other areas of the site beyond just the All-Weather Access Road? Is it just collaring data, or are there other ways to monitor where the caribou are moving across the site?</p>
	<p>We were always told to be observers during the migration and were told never to kill the first caribou that arrive, as they are the leaders of the herd. I don’t know how long it was after Meliadine was opened that the caribou started to travel again through the area. In the 90s we used to see thousands of caribou in our area, but we do not see them in those numbers anymore. It is very difficult to hunt caribou now if you don’t have access to ATVs; people are no longer observing the tradition of allowing the lead caribou to go through, we need to return to these traditions.</p>
	<p>In the picture when the caribou are climbing the esker and are passing over the slope to cross the road Agnico Eagle may think this is a good sign, but Inuit don’t think it is good because the caribou are climbing up the slope and this stresses them. The road should be more level with the ground so that the caribou do not have to climb at all; this could potentially be causing stress, suffering and injury. My father used to say that the animals are not “game”; wildlife is not something that we should be playing with.</p>

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Caribou	No longer see caribou from the Qamanirjuaq herd in the area of the Baker Lake.
	Why are representatives from the Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board not participating in these meetings; they should be aware of these issues and hear the knowledge being shared.
	It is not respectful to the teachings of our ancestors to interrupt the caribou migrating or impose barriers on the land that prevent the caribou from going where they want.
	Caribou are known to be particularly sensitive to sensory disturbances when they are in small groups, like they are in the fall during the time when they are most likely to be hunted. What will Agnico Eagle be doing to minimize these effects on caribou and on the ability of hunters to harvest caribou during this season?
	How has the Government of Nunavut ensured that caribou collar data is accurately characterized during this assessment?
Cumulative Effects	Each of these changes to the original project may look like small changes in and of themselves, but all together they may create barriers and become unacceptable when taken altogether.
Dust Control/Dust Suppression	It seems like the dust that is coming from the mine is blowing toward the ocean, and it accumulates on the shore over the winter. I wonder if Agnico Eagle is aware that this dust seems to be coming from the mine itself, not just the road.
Ecosystemic Effects	Don't want to see effects on the land, air, water, and all animals from the Extension Proposal.
Electric Vehicles	Why doesn't Agnico Eagle use more electric vehicles?
Fish	For the lake that has been identified as having arctic char. Does Agnico Eagle have any plans to move the fish before Agnico Eagle dewater the lakes? Agnico Eagle needs to remember that it might be very difficult for the fish that are moved to be at home in the new lake with the new lake having a different type of lakebed, different vegetation and different food sources.
	The fish around Rankin Inlet must be protected.
	There are a lot of fish that pass upstream and from the rivers and into the lakes. There are probably a lot of arctic char.
	Dewatering lakes for road construction is going to impact the fish in those areas.



Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
	Don't want to see the rivers and lakes affected and don't want to see the fish removed.
In-Pit Tailings Disposal	Does Agnico Eagle know if the tailings deposited into the mined-out pits can go into the underground, and if so, where the tailings could end up?
Marine Shipping	Our walrus hunters in Coral Harbour have been affected by shipping...can Agnico Eagle specify whether the shipping route goes north or south of Coates Island?
	Want 100% of Agnico Eagle shipping to go south of Coates Island so that it doesn't impact our hunting routes to the north.
Monitoring	Has anybody reported tumours or sickness in marine mammals or fish?
	There should be more monitoring of caribou in the area around the mine.
Noise	Haven't heard any information about the potential for noise from the airstrip to impact the wildlife.
Pipelines	Want to see the pipelines removed when Agnico Eagle is done, want those removed and not left behind.
Reclamation	When Agnico Eagle is done mining, what will happen with the pits, will they be refilled?
	How will the site be reclaimed when Angico Eagle stops mining? How can Agnico Eagle put everything back to the way it was before?
	It is very important to understand how big the mine complex will be when it is fully developed because that entire footprint will need to be reclaimed.
Roads	Agnico Eagle should be very careful in their use of salt on the roads to make them less slippery, because road salt can have significant impacts on the vegetation, soil, and freshwater near the roadway.
	Why does Agnico Eagle need another road?
	What is the reason that the roads are not paved?
	Not in favour of the road to Discovery because that road will further disrupt the migration of the caribou.
	Has Agnico Eagle given some thought to seasonal operation of Discovery (only during the winter) so that the caribou migration would not be interrupted so much?
	Can Agnico Eagle leave the roads intact and in place when you are done, rather than breaking it up?

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Wildlife	There are all sorts of wildlife out on the tundra, not only caribou (wolves, foxes, musk ox, wolverines, birds, grizzly bears and polar bears) that are potentially going to be affected and the effects on all these wildlife must also be considered.
Windfarm	We are very concerned about the noise from the windfarms affecting the wildlife; although Agnico Eagle has indicated that there will be no impacts on wildlife from the noise, but it is hard to see how that can be true when the wind turbines will be operating continuously.
	What is the decibel level if you are standing next to the windfarm?
	When Agnico Eagle is done would Agnico Eagle donate the windfarm to the community if they wanted it?
	What other types of alternative energy will Agnico Eagle use if the wind is not blowing? If you need to have the back up generators for when the wind is not blowing, what is the point of installing the wind turbines?
	How will Agnico Eagle prevent birds from being injured by flying into the wind turbines and how will Agnico Eagle prevent birds from nesting near the wind turbines?
	Much more study is required before the windfarm should be approved to go ahead.
	What has Agnico Eagle done to minimize and mitigate with respect to the potential visual and noise impacts of the wind turbines?
<b>SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS</b>	
Archaeological Sites	Agnico Eagle needs to be very careful to identify and then not disturb artifacts and archaeological sites near the mine.
	Inuksuit were used in the area and there are many archaeological sites in the area that should not be disrupted or damaged. This communicates our history and conveyed the knowledge from our ancestors. Because of them we are here today, and we do not want to lose their knowledge by having inuksuit removed or destroyed.
	Don't want to see the many archaeological sites in that area disturbed because that is our heritage and it shouldn't be taken from us.
Benefits	Our environment is very important to us, but we also have to be able to benefit from the employment being offered by the mine; and we need to work together to ensure that our communities and people benefit from the mine and the Extension Proposal.

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Compensation	Would there be compensation available for impacts on water, wildlife and caribou? And who would receive compensation (would it be all potentially affected communities)?
Consultation	When was the last time there was a community consultation regarding the Extension Proposal?
Education	I think that we need to support youth getting an education and being prepared for the employment opportunities that come.
Elders	We should listen to and be guided by what the elders have to say.
	How can elders be engaged and their input considered more fully in the process?
	We must ensure that the knowledge of our elders is heard before it is too late.
Employment	There should be a much higher level of Inuit employment at the mine site...it should be more like 80% Inuit employees at the mine.
	Concerned that all the good jobs at the mine sites will be staffed by temporary workers and not people from the communities.
	Of the 205 additional jobs associated with the Extension Proposal, what percentage will be filled by Inuit in management positions?
	We need to get prepared and see more people educated to take advantage of employment opportunities. We used to live in harmony back in the day; and we were never opposed to pursuing these types of employment opportunities, while still hunting. We need to be aware that Inuit can be managers or mine workers and still be hunters.
	What is the exact number of jobs available to Inuit associated with the Extension Proposal?
Experience With Existing Mines	It is important for the residents of Manitoba and Baker Lake to have shared their experiences with us about the effects on their lands and lives from existing mines.
Inuit Language	Inuit employees are often not able to speak their language on site. This is unacceptable, you are in Nunavut, we should be able to speak our language.
Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit	Have elders reviewed and validated all the studies provided by Agnico Eagle as part of this process?
	What does Agnico Eagle mean about their role in “validating” Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit?

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Traditional Land Use	There are a number of cabins very close to the mine and it seems that the people's use of their cabins will be affected by components of the Extension Proposal such as the airstrip and the windfarm.
	We want our land to remain undisturbed and to remain available for our traditional hunting, fishing, egg gathering and camping grounds.
Training	What kind of training is available on the job at the mine site?
	Recommend that there be thought given to having Red Seal training available to mine employees.
	When you say that there are several employees getting Red Seal training, how many of them are Nunavut Inuit?
	There should be thought paid to figuring out the training necessary to transition from southerners occupying the management jobs to Inuit and Nunavummiut.
Youth	I believe that the young people will need be able to take advantage of the opportunities; but training and education is going to be very important to encourage and enable them to be employed. But we need to ask young people what opportunities and education they need.
	Communities and companies must also work together to ensure that Inuit youth are supported to get good jobs and advance in those jobs.
<b>OTHER ISSUES</b>	
Accidents, Spills and Malfunctions	Does Agnico Eagle have a Plan B in case of a disaster happening during marine shipping like a ship carrying fuel going down?
Alternative Energy	Did Agnico Eagle think about using solar energy instead of the windfarm?
	Has Agnico Eagle considered purchasing alternative energy offsets rather than constructing a windfarm to reduce their net greenhouse gas emissions?
Alternatives	Agnico Eagle has indicated that they could "live without" the airstrip being approved at this time, but that the windfarm is required to support the Meliadine Extension Project Proposal; if this aspect of the Proposal is not approved would the Proponent be finished with development in the Meliadine area?
Phased Development	Agnico Eagle appears to be rolling out small changes, but with no clear communication about what is the overall plan for the mine and the area.
Support for the Proposal	Do the Intervenors support this Proposal going forward?

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Working Together	As Inuit and southerners, we need to work together and sort things out so that we can learn from each other, we should not be working against each other.
	We need to work together to ensure that the companies protect the earth, but I think about what my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren will think if they hear that the company asked to develop this project and we said “no” to this opportunity for the future.
	We need to work together to ensure that the footprint of the Proposal is minimized, but we need to find better ways to help the people in our community; the population has really grown in Rankin Inlet and we have a housing crisis here and are facing difficult times here in our community. We need jobs and housing as well.

In addition to the questions expressed orally at the Community Roundtable, the NIRB received a written submission from a community member in Rankin Inlet which is attached in [Appendix D](#)

## 6. Summary of the Commitments and Outstanding Issues

As noted previously in the Report, due to time constraints, the NIRB requested that an updated Commitments List be provided after the Pre-Hearing Conference followed by an opportunity for parties to provide their comments and state any outstanding issues. On December 1, 2022, Agnico Eagle submitted an updated draft of the Commitments List with additional commitments developed during or since the proceedings.<sup>3</sup>

The NIRB received comments on the Commitments List from the KIA, GN, CIRNAC, ECCC, DFO, HC, NRCAN, TC, NDFN and SDFN, which are summarized in [Table 6](#).

**Table 6: Comments Received regarding the December 1, 2022 Commitments List**

Party	Document Summary	Doc ID No.
KIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted that the TAG is not the venue to resolve caribou related technical comments.</li> <li>Requested that Agnico Eagle detail the technical studies that will be completed to evaluate the in-pit tailings and waste rock deposition.</li> <li>Recommended the Windfarm Management Plan be completed prior to the Public Hearing.</li> </ul>	342337

<sup>3</sup> Public Registry ID: 342255



Party	Document Summary	Doc ID No.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide updated water quality and water balance model information for assessment during the NIRB impact review process.</li> <li>• Provide an assessment of an additional saline waterline for discharge to Itivia Harbour to increase the capacity for contact water discharge.</li> <li>• Provide details on updates to the Adaptive Management Plan due to the Extension Proposal activities for assessment during the impact review process, including further detail on the Discovery waterline construction.</li> <li>• Requests the joint discussions to include the GN, SDFN and NDFN to attempt to resolve outstanding caribou technical comments.</li> <li>• Commitments related to KIA technical comments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, and 9 remain outstanding.</li> </ul>	
GN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not support deferring any wildlife related technical review comments to the Terrestrial Advisory Group (TAG).</li> <li>• Commitments relating to caribou technical comments 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 (part 1), 13, and 14 remain unresolved.</li> </ul>	342308
CIRNAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested that relevant terms and conditions (119, 124, 125 and 134) be revised to indicate that all requirements for the dual waterlines would also be applicable for the Discovery waterline.</li> <li>• Submitted comments provided to Agnico Eagle for assessment of in-pit tailings, waste rock deposition, and saline/contact water storage.</li> <li>• Unresolved CIRNAC technical review comment omitted from commitment list: 4, 6, and 7. Discussions are ongoing related to technical review comment 2 (in-pit deposition).</li> </ul>	342306
DFO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data presented to DFO should not be left for later processes. DFO requires all necessary information to adequately assess impacts, provide expert support to the NIRB and impacted communities, and share with other parties that may share similar jurisdiction over certain resources.</li> </ul>	342306

Party	Document Summary	Doc ID No.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolution of DFO technical review comments contingent upon the information to be received from Agnico Eagle.</li> </ul>	
ECCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with Agnico Eagle to arrange meeting to discuss the net-zero plan and carbon sinks.</li> <li>Submitted comments provided to Agnico Eagle for assessment of in-pit tailings, waste rock deposition and saline/contact water storage.</li> </ul>	342306
HC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolution of Health Canada's technical comments are contingent upon information received.</li> <li>Recommended that HHRA updates are not limited to only qualitative updates, more in-depth analysis may be warranted.</li> </ul>	342306
NRCan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted that in-pit deposition will still need to be a part of the NWB process.</li> <li>Submitted comments provided to Agnico Eagle for assessment of in-pit deposition.</li> </ul>	342306
TC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted regulations and requirements for the airstrip, navigable water crossings, and minor works.</li> </ul>	342306
NDFN & SDFN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unclear which caribou-related topics that Agnico Eagle intends to address with the TAG and which topics it intends to address at bilateral meetings under Commitments No. 37 and 38.</li> <li>General concern with the number of caribou-related issues identified through the technical review comments and the technical review meeting that Agnico Eagle has proposed to defer to the TAG for resolution.</li> <li>Request to extend timeline of commitment 24 (windfarm site visit) to March 31, 2023.</li> <li>Clarification that the NDFN and SDFN are seeking a cross-section diagram of the Discovery waterline.</li> <li>Request to participate in the bilateral meetings discussed in commitments 35, 37, and 38.</li> </ul>	342303

Agnico Eagle has provided multiple documents to the NIRB after the close of the Pre-Hearing Conference to address commitments to parties and providing follow up responses to Community Roundtable members and members of the public. Recognizing that additional documents and correspondence are expected to continue to be submitted through the end of January 2023, this is not a complete list, but the NIRB will continue to make all submissions available on the Public Registry. Documents received after the proceeding and up to December 10, 2022 are summarized

in [Table 7](#) and can be accessed via the NIRB’s public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125684](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125684) or by searching for the below Document ID numbers.

**Table 7: Documents Received After the Close of the Pre-Hearing Conference**

Document Summary	Doc ID No.
Response to Commitment No. 30	342325
• HHERA receptor locations	342326
Response to Commitment No. 34	342327
• Employment	342328
Response to Commitment No. 20 and No. 40	342244
• In-pit deposition	342245
	342254
Response to Commitment No. 43	342329
• Pre-construction imagery	342330
Responses to Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization	
• Community engagement and public support	342375
Response to Arviq Hunters and Trappers Organization	
• Inuit employment and marine mammal monitors	342374
Response to C. Tartak	
• Lakes to be dewatered	342373

## 7. Nunavut Impact Review Board Analysis & Decision

### 7.1. Jurisdiction of the Board

The NIRB conducted the Pre-Hearing Conference associated with the Board’s reconsideration of specific terms and conditions in Agnico Eagle’s Meliadine Gold Mine Project Certificate 006, for the “Meliadine Extension” Project Proposal (Extension Proposal or Proposal) under Section 12.8.2 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 112 of the *NuPPAA* in the afternoon of November 25, 2022.

The purpose of the Pre-Hearing Conference was to inform the NIRB’s consideration of the next steps in the Board’s assessment of the Extension Proposal. The Board’s Chairperson chaired the PHC and the Proponent and parties were invited to comment on outstanding issues, process, procedure, timing, and logistics for potential next steps. Due to the one-day delay in the start of the Technical Meeting, resulting from the travel cancellations and inclement weather delays as parties travelled to Rankin Inlet, the Board deferred the discussion of the list of commitments that would typically take place at the end of the Technical Meeting to a written process in the weeks following the close of the meetings. On December 1, 2022, Agnico Eagle filed an updated Commitments List associated with the Extension Proposal that was current to December 1, 2022<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Public Registry ID: 342255

and reflected commitments made during the NIRB meetings in Rankin Inlet. Subsequently, parties filed their views on the December 1, 2022 version of the Commitments List by December 8, 2022 (see [Table 6](#)).

In preparing the Board's updated procedural guidance to govern next steps in the NIRB's reconsideration, the Board considered:

- The written materials provided by Agnico Eagle to date, including the Extension Proposal application materials, Final Environmental Impact Statement Addendum (FEIS Addendum), responses to comments and information requests, supplementary written submissions and list of commitments to parties to address outstanding information requests and technical issues;
- The written materials submitted by parties to date, including information requests, technical review comments, and comments in respect of supplementary information, responses and commitments provided by Agnico Eagle; and
- The presentations of the Proponent, the comments and questions of parties, community representatives and the public provided during the Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference (November 23-25, 2022).

## **7.2. Procedural Issues**

Taking into account the information listed above, the Board's decision on the next steps in the Board's assessment of the Extension Proposal is as follows.

### **1. Identification of any issues preventing the convening of a Public Hearing**

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) indicated that although NTI had not identified any issues preventing the file from advancing to a Public Hearing, they supported the submissions of the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) with respect to the KIA's position that scheduling the Public Hearing was premature. The KIA then stated that as of the date of the Pre-Hearing Conference (November 25, 2022) all of the KIA's technical review comments remained outstanding. Further, the KIA indicated that to date Agnico Eagle had not supplied sufficient information to conduct a complete assessment of the potential for the Extension Proposal to have adverse impacts on:

- wildlife (especially caribou); and
- water quality in Meliadine Lake.

The KIA noted that the Minister identified these two issues as central to the Board's reconsideration process. Having concluded that Agnico Eagle had not provided the relevant information necessary for the Board and parties to conduct a thorough and complete assessment of all activities within the scope of the Extension Proposal, the KIA considered it premature for the Board to schedule the Public Hearing. The KIA commented that the Board's assessment is not something that should be rushed and that taking additional time to ensure all parties have received the information necessary to complete their assessment is consistent with the precautionary principle. The KIA requested that once Agnico Eagle has provided all relevant information identified by the parties as necessary to complete the assessment, the NIRB should convene

another Pre-Hearing Conference, at which time Public Hearing timelines and logistics could be discussed.

The Government of Nunavut supported the view expressed by the KIA that outstanding information requirements and unresolved technical issues are such that the file should not proceed to a Public Hearing at this time.

The Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization (KHTO) indicated that Agnico Eagle has provided insufficient information about the potential impacts of windfarms on caribou in the materials filed to date, and this remains an outstanding issue for the KHTO.

Sayisi Dene First Nation (SDFN) and Northlands Denesuline First Nation (NDFN) identified that each of their technical comments remain unresolved. Consequently, SDFN and NDFN fully supported the KIA's position that the file should not proceed to a Public Hearing and also KIA's request that a further Pre-Hearing Conference be scheduled once the required information has been provided.

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), on behalf of the Government of Canada (GoC), noted that Agnico Eagle had provided commitments to several GoC parties to provide additional information, but details were not yet confirmed regarding when information would be provided, the form of the additional information and the amount of time required for the GoC to review and comment on the information. Reflecting these uncertainties, CIRNAC indicated that it was difficult for the GoC to provide recommendations regarding a timeline for the Public Hearing during the PHC.

Agnico Eagle responded that the Proponent had made several commitments during the meetings to provide various parties with additional information in December and January. On that basis, Agnico Eagle proposed that the NIRB consider setting a date for the Public Hearing in the PHC Decision Report sometime within the month of March 2023.

**a. Community consultation request from the SDFN and NDFN**

During the discussion of issues that may prevent the assessment of the Extension Proposal from proceeding to a Public Hearing, legal counsel for the Manitoba SDFN and NDFN stated that additional community engagement is necessary to allow both communities to fully participate in the NIRB's assessment of the Extension Proposal. SDFN and NDFN indicated that their expectations for community consultation have not been met because their home communities have not been treated the same as the potentially affected Kivalliq communities (e.g. SDFN and NDFN have not had community information sessions about the Extension Proposal conducted by NIRB in their home communities, and were limited to the NIRB providing support for a single community representative from each of the SDFN and NDFN to attend the TM/CRT/PHC rather than the three (3) community representatives supported for each Kivalliq community). The SDFN and NDFN indicated that the lack of community engagement to date "undermines the Crown's ability to rely on the NIRB process to discharge the Crown's duty to consult" under s. 35 of the *Canadian Constitution Act, 1982*. To address this situation, the SDFN and NDFN indicated that the NIRB should conduct Community Information Sessions in their home communities of Tadoule



Lake and Lac Brochet, Manitoba respectively, to provide information about the Extension Proposal at least 30 days before the final written submissions of the parties and the public are required to be filed before a Public Hearing. The SDFN and NDFN also indicated that the NIRB should ensure that the SDFN and NDFN are able to send the same number of community representatives to the Public Hearing as the NIRB allows the potentially affected Kivalliq communities to send.

As the Board acknowledges that the jurisdiction to determine the scope and content of indigenous rights asserted under s. 35 of *the Constitution Act, 1982*, to determine the adequacy of consultation, and to make determinations regarding the required accommodation of such rights remains with the Government of Canada, the Chairperson asked CIRNAC to provide the Board with direction regarding the SDFN's and NDFN's request. CIRNAC acknowledged the requests of SDFN and NDFN, and indicated that the GoC considered these requests to be reasonable and consistent with the responsible Ministers' prior acknowledgement of the asserted and established s. 35 rights of the SDFN and NDFN in Nunavut, as stated in the Responsible Ministers' January 31, 2022 decision for Agnico Eagle's Saline Effluent Discharge to the Marine Environment Project Proposal. The GoC reaffirmed their recognition of the asserted and established s. 35 rights of the SDFN and NDFN in Nunavut in the context of the Board's current reconsideration of the Expansion Proposal and acknowledged the Board's discretion to determine how best to accommodate these rights.

## **2- Discussion and Facilitation of the Public Hearing Process**

### **a. Anticipated date, time, form, and location(s) to schedule the Public Hearing**

As noted above, Agnico Eagle was the lone participant during the PHC to express the view that the assessment should proceed to a Public Hearing, and identified the month of March 2023 as an appropriate time for the Public Hearing. All other participants indicated that it is not yet possible to set a date for the Public Hearing.

With respect to the form and location of a future Public Hearing, all parties indicated unanimous support for the Public Hearing to be conducted in person in the community of Rankin Inlet.

### **b. Timetable for the exchange of documents and information requests prior to the Public Hearing**

Upon review of the December 1, 2022 version of the Commitments List provided by Agnico Eagle<sup>5</sup>, it appears to the Board that as of January 31, 2023, Agnico Eagle intends to provide all of the additional information the Proponent considers necessary to be provided in advance of the Public Hearing.

During the PHC and further specified in their responses to the December 1, 2022 version of the Commitments List, parties indicated that once Agnico Eagle has provided additional relevant information, they would require sufficient time to review these additional submissions and provide their technical comments on the information to the Board. Specifically, in responding to the

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<sup>5</sup> Public Registry ID: 342255

Commitments List, the SDFN and NDFN anticipated that they would require until March 31, 2023 for commitment 25, regarding a windfarm site visit with the TAG.

### **c. Confirmation of Commitments List by parties**

As noted above, due to timing constraints arising from the one-day delay in starting the Technical Meeting, the discussion of the Commitments List was deferred to a written process to take place after the TM/CRT/PHC.

The December 1, 2022 version of the Commitments List provided by Agnico Eagle<sup>5</sup> lists 47 commitments made by Agnico Eagle to resolve the technical issues identified by parties during their initial technical review of the Extension Proposal.

As summarized in [Table 6](#), the following parties provided comments in respect of the December 1, 2022 version of the Commitments List by December 8, 2022:

- Kivalliq Inuit Association
- Government of Nunavut
- Government of Canada:
  - Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
  - Environment and Climate Change Canada
  - Fisheries and Oceans Canada
  - Health Canada
  - Natural Resources Canada
  - Transport Canada
- Northlands Denesuline First Nation and Sayisi Dene First Nation

### **d. Finalization of issues for the Public Hearing, and identification of interested parties to attend the Public Hearing**

As several parties identified that they did not have sufficient information to complete an assessment of the potential for various components of the Extension Proposal (e.g. the proposed airstrip, windfarm, and in-pit tailings and waste rock disposal) to have adverse effects on wildlife (particularly caribou and fish) and water quality in Meliadine Lake, discussions to finalize the list of issues for the Public Hearing were deferred.

With respect to the inclusion of various alternatives within the scope of the Extension Proposal, the Board clarified that Agnico Eagle must provide sufficient details about the proposed alternatives to enable parties to assess the potential for impacts associated with the alternatives. If sufficient information for the Board and parties to conduct an assessment of a given alternative is not provided during the reconsideration, the Board may exclude that alternative from the scope of the project proposal as assessed. The Board indicated that the mention of an alternative in the project proposal, with an indication that the details surrounding the alternative and assessment of potential for impacts would be deferred to a future regulatory process such as the licensing or permitting stage, is insufficient to constitute an alternative that was adequately assessed during the Board's reconsideration process.

With respect to the identification of interested parties to attend the Public Hearing, all parties and community representatives present at the Pre-Hearing Conference identified their interest or community's interest in participating in the Public Hearing. In addition, the Government of Nunavut indicated that the NIRB should consider extending an invitation the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board to attend the Public Hearing.

**e. Logistic arrangement, equipment, language, interpretation, translation, and transcript requirements**

All parties agreed that they did not anticipate requiring changes to the Board's current Rules of Procedure (September 2009) for the conduct of an in-person Public Hearing.

**f. Other matters that may aid in the simplification of the Public Hearing**

Parties generally deferred to the NIRB with no additional recommendations regarding how the Board, the Proponent or the parties could simplify the Public Hearing. However, Agnico Eagle indicated that it would be beneficial for the Public Hearing to include time for a site visit to the existing Meliadine Mine site and infrastructure.

## **8. Conclusions of the Board**

Based on the submissions of the parties received by the Board in writing, during the Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference (November 23-25), and the responses to the December 1, 2022 version of the draft Commitments List provided by Agnico Eagle, and for the reasons set out in this section, the Board has decided that it is premature to schedule the Public Hearing for this file. At this time, recognizing that the Board and parties are awaiting important information necessary to conduct a thorough and complete assessment of the potential for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts for all components, including alternatives, currently included within the scope of the Extension Proposal, the Board has proposed that the next steps in the Board's assessment include:

- The NIRB hosting community information sessions in Tadoule Lake and Lac Brochet, Manitoba;
- Agnico Eagle providing supplemental information;
- Parties and the Board reviewing and commenting on the supplemental information received; and
- The Board hosting a second Pre-Hearing Conference for the file.

In Section [8.3](#) the Board has provided a proposed process and tentative timelines for these next steps.

The Board recognizes that Agnico Eagle has maintained that much of the information requested by parties should be deferred to discussions during the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) licence amendment process. The NIRB reminds all parties that the integrated regulatory process requires that the assessment of impacts take place during the NIRB process, as a precursor to, and to inform the subsequent licensing and permitting processes of regulators such as the NWB, Fisheries and

Oceans Canada, Transport Canada and permitting of landowners. The licensing and permitting process is not a substitute for project assessment. While the NIRB recognizes that the level of technical detail is more extensive and refined during the licensing and permitting stage compared to the assessment stage, for all components of a proposal to be considered to be assessed by the NIRB, information sufficient to assess the potential for ecosystemic and socio-economic effects must be provided to the NIRB during a reconsideration. If the information provided for the individual components within the scope of a proposal is considered by the Board to be inadequate to conduct a thorough assessment, the Board may exclude those components that cannot be adequately assessed from the scope of the proposal.

### **8.1. Community Consultation Request of SDFN and NDFN**

As referenced above, in advance of and during the Pre-Hearing Conference, legal counsel from the SDFN and NDFN indicated to the NIRB that these parties expected to be involved in the Board's assessment of the Extension Proposal based on their asserted rights in Nunavut under s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. Consequently, the SDFN and NDFN indicated that they expected their home communities to be treated the same as the seven (7) potentially affected Inuit communities within the Kivalliq. The basis for, and level of participation differed from the Board's prior approach to the involvement of the SDFN and NDFN in the Board's previous reconsideration of the Meliadine Gold Mine Project under the Saline Effluent Discharge to the Marine Environment Project Proposal (Waterlines Proposal) completed in 2021. The Board's approach in the Waterlines Proposal reconsideration was consistent with the direction of the Minister from previous assessments where the basis for the participation in the NIRB's assessment process for Indigenous Groups living outside Nunavut was on the potential for impacts on caribou to result in transboundary impacts on Indigenous Groups outside of Nunavut. Reflecting this approach, during the Board's assessment of the Waterlines Proposal, the Board focused on the potential for transboundary impacts on caribou to affect the SDFN and NDFN as Indigenous Groups dependent on the resource. From a practical standpoint, this meant that during the assessment of the Waterlines Proposal, the SDFN and NDFN participated as Intervenors speaking to potential transboundary effects in the Board's proceedings, and a single community representative from each community participated during the Board's Community Roundtable sessions during the Pre-Hearing Conference and the Public Hearing.

The response of the Minister of Northern Affairs to the Board's Notice of Reconsideration for the Extension Proposal (issued on June 22, 2022) did not indicate that the Board's previous approach to the participation of the SDFN and NDFN in the Waterlines Proposal reconsideration should be revisited. Accordingly, the Board planned for the same level and status of participation of the SDFN and NDFN as in the Waterlines Proposal reconsideration. As the NIRB does not have the jurisdiction to assess the scope and content of s. 35 indigenous rights as asserted by the SDFN and NDFN within Nunavut, the Board sought direction from the Minister to clarify the expectations of the Crown in terms of the SDFN's and NDFN's participation, as it was not limited to the potential for transboundary impacts, but more broadly on their asserted indigenous rights within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

As indicated in section [7.2](#), during the Pre-Hearing Conference, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada provided clarification to the Board in respect of the SDFN's and NDFN's participation in the assessment of the Extension Proposal. It was clarified that CIRNAC considered the request of SDFN and NDFN, to be treated the same as the potentially affected Kivalliq communities, to be reasonable and consistent with the responsible Ministers' acknowledgement of the asserted and established s. 35 rights of the SDFN and NDFN in Nunavut. Based on this clarification from CIRNAC, the Board will be confirming the funding and logistical arrangements for the Board to conduct a community information session about the Extension Proposal in each of Tadoule Lake and Lac Brochet, Manitoba. The Board has directed that these community information sessions be completed at least 30 days before the deadline for Intervenor and interested parties to file final written submissions with the Board in advance of the Public Hearing for the file. In addition, the NIRB will also confirm funding and logistics to support the in-person attendance of up to five (5) community representatives during the Community Roundtable session of the Public Hearing.

## **8.2. Outstanding Issues**

As indicated during the Technical Meeting and subsequently reiterated in parties' comments on Agnico Eagle's December 1, 2022 draft of the Commitments List, several parties (e.g. Kivalliq Inuit Association, Government of Nunavut, Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization, Northlands Denesuline First Nation and Sayisi Dene First Nation) indicated that it is unacceptable to defer the outstanding technical issues regarding the potential for the Extension Proposal to impact terrestrial wildlife (caribou in particular) to the Terrestrial Advisory Group for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project. These parties note that the TAG has yet to become established and functional, the TAG membership does not include all parties interested and/or with a mandate for caribou management, and it remains unclear whether the TAG will be operational in time to provide advice and direction to the NIRB in respect of the assessment of the Extension Proposal. The Board shares this concern, and in the Board's December 9, 2022 correspondence<sup>6</sup> asked Agnico Eagle to provide a clear indication regarding the information with respect to the assessment of potential effects on caribou that would be provided during the Board's assessment.

The Board also notes that there are outstanding information requests and technical review comments that parties have indicated are necessary to be addressed before they can complete their technical review of the Extension Proposal in respect of the following items:

- In-pit tailings and waste rock disposal;
- Waterlines alignment, crossings and coverings;
- The windfarm; and
- The airstrip.

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<sup>6</sup> Public Registry ID: 342347



As stated by the Board above, to be included within the scope of the assessment, the Board requires information sufficient to assess the potential for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts associated with these components.

### **8.3. Proposed Process and Timelines for the Next Steps in the Board's Reconsideration**

As noted above, the Board agrees with the submission of the Kivalliq Inuit Association and supported by the other parties, that following the submission and review by parties and the Board of Agnico Eagle's supplemental information, it would be useful for the Board to conduct a second Pre-Hearing Conference to focus on the identification of resolved and outstanding technical issues, and the potential timing and logistics for a Public Hearing. The Board has structured the proposed process and timelines that follow to reflect the Board hosting a second Pre-Hearing Conference via teleconference. All parties are advised that these next steps and associated timelines are subject to change at the Board's discretion to reflect changes to circumstances, such as revisions to the timing of submission of the outstanding information by Agnico Eagle, determinations by the Board regarding the adequacy of the information received, logistical challenges, previously scheduled commitments on the Board's calendar, *etc.*:

- In **January, 2023**, the NIRB will work with CIRNAC and Northlands Denesuline First Nation and Sayisi Dene First Nation to confirm funding and logistics for community information sessions to be conducted in Tadoule Lake and Lac Brochet, Manitoba on dates to be confirmed with the communities in January or early February, 2023;
- On or before **2:00 pm MST, on Tuesday, January 31, 2023** Agnico Eagle files with the Board all supplemental information the Proponent has committed to provide to parties before the Public Hearing, confirmation of the scope of the Extension Proposal (including confirmation of preferred alternatives that should be included in the scope) and (if applicable) files an updated Commitments List to reflect the resolution of outstanding technical issues since the filing of Agnico Eagle's December 1, 2022 draft;
- On or before **2:00 pm MST on Tuesday, February 28, 2023** parties and interested members of the public provide their comments in respect of the supplemental information provided by Agnico Eagle, and (if applicable) an updated Commitments List; and
- In the week of **March 13-17, 2023**, the Board will host a half-day Pre-Hearing Conference (conducted via teleconference) to discuss next steps in the assessment, including the potential timing and logistics of a Public Hearing.

The Board thanks all participants of the recent Technical Meeting, Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference for their contributions to conducting productive meetings under challenging circumstances. The Board recognizes that participants may have very strong feelings, including disagreement with other participants, but as the Board has generally come to expect, strong emotions and differing perspectives can be conveyed in a manner that is respectful and

productive. The Board appreciated the efforts of all parties to respect the perspectives of others and to observe the process and procedural directions of the Board.

Signed this 22 day of December, 2022



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Marjorie Kaviq Kaluraq

Chairperson

Nunavut Impact Review Board

## Appendix A

### List of Acronyms

Agnico Eagle or Proponent	Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle
AWAR	All-weather Access Road
CIRNAC	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
CNWA	<i>Canadian Navigable Waters Act</i>
COVID-19	Novel Coronavirus
CRT	Community Roundtable
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement or Impact Statement
Extension Proposal	“Meliadine Extension” Project Proposal
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FEIS Addendum	Supplement to the FEIS to a previously-approved project
GN	Government of Nunavut
GoC	Government of Canada
HC	Health Canada
HHRA	Human Health Risk Assessment
HTO	Hunters and Trappers Organization
IR	Information Request
KHTO	Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization
KIA	Kivalliq Inuit Association
MST	Mountain Standard Time
NDFN	Northlands Denesuline First Nation
NIRB or Board	Nunavut Impact Review Board

NPMO	Northern Projects Management Office
NRCan	Natural Resources Canada
<i>Nunavut Agreement</i>	<i>Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada</i>
NuPPAA	<i>Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act</i> , S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2
NTI	Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
NWB	Nunavut Water Board
PHC	Pre-Hearing Conference
SDFN	Sayisi Dene First Nation
TAG	Terrestrial Advisory Group
TC	Transport Canada
TM	Technical Meeting
TRC	Technical Review Comment
TEMMP	Terrestrial Environment Management and Monitoring Plan
WRSF	Waste Rock Storage Facility



## Appendix B

### Summary Listings of Participants and Attendees in Community Roundtable Session and Pre-Hearing Conference

<b>Project Proponent</b>	Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
<b>Technical Meeting (TM)</b>	November 23-24, 2022
<b>TM Facilitator</b>	Karen Costello, NIRB Executive Director
<b>Community Roundtable (CRT)</b>	November 24-25, 2022
<b>Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC)</b>	November 25, 2022
<b>Facilitator</b>	Kaviq Kaluraq, NIRB Chairperson
<b>NIRB legal counsel</b>	Teresa Meadows, Meadows Law
<b>Interpreters</b>	Josie Tucktoo Mary Rose Angoshadluk
<b>NIRB Staff</b>	Brydon Beattie Emily Koide Josie Tucktoo Karen Costello Keith Morrison Lena Atatahak Robby Qammaniq Tara Arko
<b>Nunavut Water Board</b>	Ali Shaikh
<b>Agnico Eagle Mines Limited</b>	Jamie Quesnel Manon Turmel Colleen Prather Jenyfer Mosquera Angie Arbaiza Sophie Lacourse Jen Range Edward Malindzak Luc Chouinard Robin Allard Lonny Syvret Alex Buchan Pujjuut Kusugak Matt Gillman Jawad Haloui

	David Kritterdlik Christine Kowbel Dan Coulton Greg Sharam Andres Soux Kerrie Serben
<b>Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated</b>	Bert Dean Raymond Mercer
<b>Kivalliq Inuit Association</b>	Luis Manzo Jeff Tulugak Alan Sexton Matt McDougall Tara Sagriff Craig Beardsall Kono Tattuinee Jonathan Katz
<b>Government of Nunavut</b>	Gabriel Karlik Kamil Sameer Stephen Atkinson Daniel Kaludjak Kamil Sameer Robert Connelly Michelle Anderson
<b>Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada</b>	Amal Roy Felexce Ngwa Richard Bingley Tony Brown
<b>Environment and Climate Change Canada</b>	Victoria Shore Anne Wilson
<b>Fisheries and Oceans Canada</b>	José Audet-Lecouffe Alasdair Beattie Paul Harper
<b>Health Canada</b>	Julie Anderson Joel Kaushansky Paul Partridge
<b>Natural Resources Canada</b>	Vikash Narine
<b>Transport Canada</b>	Adam Downing
<b>Northern Projects Management Office</b>	Kaitlyn Bakker

	Natalie D'Souza
<b>Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization</b>	Andre Aokaut Harry Ittinuar
<b>Sayisi Dene First Nation and Northlands Denesuline First Nation</b>	Geoff Bussidor Benjamin Denechezhe Kelly Olson Daniel Chranowski
<b>Media</b>	Kivalliq News
<b>Community Representatives</b>	
<b>Whale Cove</b>	Gerard Maktar Percy Kabloona Sr.
<b>Baker Lake</b>	Timothy Evviuk Hosea Iksiraq Eva Elytook
<b>Rankin Inlet</b>	Harry Towtongie Harry Ittinuar
<b>Chesterfield Inlet</b>	Leo Mimialik
<b>Naujaat</b>	Solomon Nakoolak
<b>Coral Harbour</b>	Paul Angutatuur
<b>Sayisi Dene First Nation</b>	Tom Sha'oullie
<b>Northlands Denesuline First Nation</b>	Suzane Atkins
<b>Public</b>	A. Akerolik S. Alagalak A. Alaralak A. Aliyaq H. Angootealuk L. Angootealuk T. Angoshadluk A. Aokaut T. Boyd T. Bruce S. Burnett A. Curley L. Curley B. Dean P. Friesen A. Gibbons A. Hahalolik J. Hicks Q. Iisaluk R. Innuksuk W. Inuksuk

	P. Irngaut A. Kabvitok T. Adams Kadlak P. Kaludjak N. Kaludjuk K. Kanayok S. Kirkwa T. Makkigiaq J. Makpa P. Netserk R. Oolooyuk Pukka M. Putulik J. Taipanaq C. Tartak L. Tatty H. Tatty H. Tatty J. Tatty E. Tatty J. Tulurialik J. Ussak B. Zawadski
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## Appendix C

### ***Revised Technical Meeting Agenda***

<b>NIRB File No.:</b>	11MN034 – Meliadine Extension Project Proposal
<b>Proponent:</b>	Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Karen Costello, NIRB Executive Director
<b>Dates &amp; Times:</b>	All times given in Central Time are approximate and are subject to change at the NIRB's discretion.  November 23, 2022: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm  November 24, 2022: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
<b>Location:</b>	Recreation Hall, Rankin Inlet, NU

### **Day 1 of Technical Meeting – November 23, 2022**

#### General Opening:

1. NIRB Welcome and Opening Remarks (*30 minutes NIRB speaking time*)
  - a. Opening Prayer
  - b. Opening statements from Mayor of Rankin Inlet
  - c. Introductions, overview of procedural history, structure of the meetings
  - d. Introduction of Meeting Participants
  - e. Overview of Agenda
  - f. Housekeeping items

#### Technical Meeting

2. Proponent Presentation (*total 60 minutes presentation time by Agnico Eagle*)
  - a. Introduction and overview
    - i. Project design and rationale, description of project components including construction, operation, and removal/reclamation
    - ii. Public engagement and community response update
    - iii. Conclusions presented in the FEIS Addendum pertaining to alternatives assessment and methodologies
  - b. Response to Technical Review Comments
3. Roundtable discussion: questions by parties and NIRB staff on the following items with potential presentations delivered by Agnico Eagle as needed:
  - a. Atmospheric environment (climate change assessment, air quality, noise and vibration *etc.*) (*10-minute presentation by Agnico Eagle*);



- b. Terrestrial environment (soils and terrain, permafrost, vegetation, terrestrial wildlife, etc.) (20-minute presentation by Agnico Eagle)
- c. Freshwater Environment (hydrology, hydrogeology, water quality, fish and fish habitat etc.) (20-minute presentation by Agnico Eagle)

Close of Day 1

## **Day 2 of Technical Meeting – November 24, 2022**

Technical Meeting (continued from Day 1):

1. NIRB Opening Remarks (15 minutes)
  - a. Day 1 Recap
  - b. Overview of Agenda
2. Roundtable discussion: questions by Parties and NIRB staff on the following items with potential presentations delivered by Agnico Eagle as needed:
  - a. Marine Environment (marine environment and marine wildlife etc.) (10-minute presentation by Agnico Eagle)
  - b. Socio-economic environment (economic development, education and training, traditional and non-traditional land use etc.) (20-minute presentation by Agnico Eagle)
  - c. Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment and Accidents and Malfunctions Assessment (10-minute presentation by Agnico Eagle)
3. Discussion and review of Proponent's list of commitments and other outstanding technical issues
4. Closing Remarks from parties
5. NIRB closing remarks and discussion of next steps

Close of Day 2

## ***Revised Community Roundtable and Pre-hearing Conference Agenda***

**File No.:** 11MN034 – Meliadine Extension Project Proposal  
**Proponent:** Agnico Eagle Mines Limited  
**Facilitator:** Kaviq Kaluraq, NIRB Chairperson  
**Dates:** November 24-25, 2022  
**Location:** Recreation Hall, Rankin Inlet, NU  
**Times:** All times given in Central Time are approximate and are subject to change at the NIRB's discretion.

Community Roundtable Session: November 24, 2022: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm  
November 25, 2022: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Pre-Hearing Conference: November 25, 2022: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

### **Community Representative Orientation –November 22, 2022 – 6:30pm**

An orientation session will be held for community representatives in the Recreation Hall, to demonstrate how proceedings will be conducted and to prepare for the Community Roundtable.

### **Day 1 of Community Roundtable– November 24, 2022**

#### General Opening:

1. NIRB Welcome and Opening Remarks (*35 minutes*)
  - a. Objectives of Community Roundtable
  - b. Overview of the NIRB process and status of the assessment
  - c. Introduction of Participants
  - d. Overview of Agenda
  - e. Housekeeping items

#### Community Roundtable Session:

2. Summary presentation by the Proponent – Introduction and Popular Summary of Project Proposal (*total 25 minute presentation time by Agnico Eagle*)
3. Questions from community representatives and the public to the Proponent and/or parties organized by topic:
  - Questioning of the Proponent and parties by community representatives
  - Questions or statements from the public to the Proponent or parties

Close of Day 1

## **Day 2 of Community Roundtable – November 25, 2022**

### General Opening

1. NIRB Opening Remarks (*15 minutes*)
  - a. Community Roundtable Recap
  - b. Overview of Agenda

### Community Roundtable (continued from Day 1):

1. Questions from community representatives and the public to the Proponent and/or parties organized by topic:
  - Questioning of the Proponent and parties by community representatives
  - Questions or statements from the public to the Proponent or parties
2. Closing statements from each community

## **Pre-Hearing Conference – November 25, 2022**

### General Opening:

1. NIRB Welcome and Opening Remarks (*15 minutes*)
  - a. Objectives of the Pre-Hearing Conference

### Pre-Hearing Conference

3. Identification of any issues required prior to convening of a Public Hearing (both NIRB and/or parties)
4. Discussion and facilitation of the Public Hearing processes – parties at the table will be given an opportunity to comment on the following:
  - a. Anticipated date, time, form, and location(s) for the Public Hearing;
  - b. Timetable for the exchange of additional documents and information requests prior to the Public Hearing;
  - c. Confirmation of commitments list by parties;
  - d. Finalization of issues for the Public Hearing, and identification of interested parties to attend the Public Hearing;
  - e. Logistics arrangement, equipment, language, interpretation, translation, and transcript requirements; and
  - f. Other matters that may aid in the simplification of the Public Hearing.
5. Closing remarks from parties
6. NIRB closing remarks and next steps
7. Closing Prayer

### Close of Pre-Hearing Conference

## **Appendix D**

### **Community Member Written Comments**

## COMMENT FORM FOR NIRB

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has a mandate to protect the integrity of the ecosystem for the existing and future residents of Nunavut. To assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project proposal, NIRB would like to hear your concerns, comments and suggestions about the following project proposal application:

<b>Project Proposal Title: Meliadine Extension</b>	
<b>Proponent: Agnico Eagle Mines Limited</b>	
<b>Please indicate your concerns about the project proposal:</b>	
<del>no concerns</del> <u>water quality and quantity</u> <u>terrain disturbance and destruction</u> <u>air quality and pollution</u> <u>terrestrial wildlife and their habitat</u> <u>marine mammals and their habitat</u> <u>birds and their habitat</u> <u>fish and their habitat</u> <u>heritage resources in the area</u>	<u>traditional uses of land and current uses</u> <u>Inuit harvesting activities</u> <u>community involvement and consultation</u> <u>local development in the area</u> (disturbance and restrictions to areas like Iivina) <u>tourism in the area</u> <u>human health issues</u> (visual pollution) <u>transboundary effects</u> other: <u>Carbon Emissions</u>

**Please describe the concerns indicated above:** I am rightly concerned that all our levels of government continue to support Agnico Eagle mines and all the others on their path of destruction. I am concerned and care about the land and all the living things on it. They sustain us and we'll protect them. I worry about the far-reaching impacts of the amount of surface and ground water that the mine has used and extracted. I'm troubled by their request for more fuel storage, when the world is trying to use less fossil fuels to combat global warming and climate change.

**Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this project proposal?**

Yes, scrap it and instead begin closer reclamation and help communities with waste management and recycling, while paying for everything themselves. If, and paying Inuit the most, for doing anything for them.

**Do you support the project proposal?** Yes ☐ **No** ☒ **Any additional comments?**

Something extra) They're working and lurking and slurping around. Digging up earth out of the ground. Using the water, making more waste killing the land. It's a disgrace! Do you want this? Who would want this? Take that company and shove it.

**Your Name:** Pallulung Friisom  
**Signature:** Pallulung Friisom

**Organization:** Community member  
**Date:** Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 2022

**Return forms to the NIRB office by email, fax or regular mail any time.**



P.O. Box 1360 Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0 Email: [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca)  
 Phone 867-983-4600, toll-free 1-866-233-3033, or fax 867-983-2594