

April 6, 2020

Karén Kharatyan
Director of Technical Services
Nunavut Water Board
PO Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Re: Agnico Eagle's Application to Authorize the Release of Water from Containment Pond 1 (CP1) to Meliadine Lake

Dear Mr. Kharatyan,

Please find enclosed Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's (**Agnico Eagle**) response to the comments dated April 2, 2020 by Kivalliq Inuit Association (**KIA**), Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (**CIRNAC**) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (**ECCC**) with respect to Agnico Eagle's application (the **Emergency Amendment Responses**). Agnico Eagle has responded to KIA's cover letter in a separate stand-alone document that was also filed with the Nunavut Water Board (**NWB**) today.

As an overall comment on the technical merits of the emergency amendment application, Agnico Eagle understands that at the time 2AM-MEL1631 was issued by the NWB, regulators had increased comfort with the application of existing water quality thresholds, such as an EQC of 1,400 mg/L TDS or a mixing zone chloride benchmark from the CCME generic long-term water quality guideline. However, such numbers were developed prior to the completion of site-specific toxicity evaluations for the Meliadine project, and those numbers do not reflect the state of the science regarding the potential for toxicity in the site-specific water mixtures applicable to the site (e.g., customization to toxicity modifying factors pertinent to the Site).

Agnico-Eagle have presented science-based procedures for development of interim triggers for water quality during the 2020 discharge season that are consistent with technical derivations for other northern mining sites, and consistent with the results of acute and chronic toxicity tests already completed with Meliadine site waters. Furthermore, Agnico-Eagle is committed to a validation monitoring program that will demonstrate that these triggers remain appropriately protective, both at the point of discharge and at the edge of the mixing zone, with no threat to the assimilative capacity of the receiver. The interim triggers have deliberately been assigned at concentrations below those at which toxicological responses are predicted to occur, providing confidence that the validation testing conducted in 2020 will confirm lack of environmental harm.

We look forward to engagement with all intervenors with respect to this emergency amendment application. Recognizing that many participants in this process may be working from home, Agnico Eagle wishes to extend its appreciation to all for their efforts and is committed to providing any support needed in these circumstances in order to ensure this application proceeds in a timely way.

Regards,



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