# NWB Water Licence 2AM-MEL1631 Amendment of the Meliadine Extension Proposal

Technical Presentation of Meliadine Extension Proposal Water Licence Amendment

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### **Our Mandate and Objectives**

- KivlA is a Designated Inuit Organization pursuant to Article 39 of the Nunavut Agreement, and represents Inuit beneficiaries of the Nunavut Agreement in the Kivalliq Region. <sup>1</sup>
- KivIA holds title to and manages surface Inuit Owned Lands in the Kivalliq Region.
- The primary purpose of Inuit Owned Lands is to provide Inuit with rights in land that promote economic self-sufficiency in a manner consistent with the cultural and social wellbeing of Inuit now and in the future.<sup>2</sup>
- Our mandate is to:
- Manage surface Inuit Owned Lands in a manner that supports sustainable economic development opportunities for Inuit.
- Ensure that any economic development is done in an environmental and socially responsible manner that protects Inuit rights guaranteed under the *Nunavut Agreement*.
  - 1. Article 39 of the Nunavut Agreement.
  - 2. Article 17 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

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- Ensure that the potential impacts and benefits are comprehensively assessed.
- Ensure Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit values are incorporated into impact determination, mitigation, project design and monitoring.
- Ensure that the voices of Inuit are heard.
- Ensure that the rights of Inuit are paramount and that they are respected now and into the future.



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# **Information Requests and Technical Comments**

- The KivlA information requests and technical comments have concerned:
  - Impacts to Meliadine Lake and surface contact water management

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Remediation of the site

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# Discharge of Surface Contact Water to Meliadine Lake

- Meliadine Lake is extremely important to local Inuit as a source of drinking water, fish, and access to caribou hunting grounds. Preservation of Meliadine Lake is of utmost importance to the KivIA and Inuit of the Kivalliq.
- The KivIA was assured by the Proponent that the approved dual waterline to Itivia Harbour would diminish the impacts of the project on the lake, by diverting surface contact water away from Meliadine Lake.
  - "... with the waterline, we reduced significantly the amount of water going to Meliadine Lake. Some years, it might be zero, and others we might have more, but less than we were originally planning. So overall the impact will be less." 3

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Nunavut Impact Review Board Reconsideration Report and Recommendations for the Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment Proposal- Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Meliadine Gold Mine Project, Project Certificate No. 006 NIRB File No. 11MN034, July 2021

# Discharge of Surface Contact Water to Meliadine Lake

- In order to ensure that the quality of the water in Meliadine Lake is suitable for traditional use, including drinking, the KivIA has worked with Agnico Eagle to ensure the waterline is used effectively to both improve the quality and lower the quantity of discharge of surface contact water
- As such, the Adaptive Management Plan will include a prioritized discharge strategy, whereby water sources with the highest potential for impact, such as tailings runoff, will be prioritized for discharge to Itivia Harbour instead of Meliadine Lake
- The KivIA expects these updates to the Adaptive Management Plan be included for review by all intervenors

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# Discharge of Surface Contact Water to Meliadine Lake

- The KivIA has been adamant in requiring a limit on annual discharge to Meliadine Lake, as lower contaminant loading will also ensure fewer impacts to the Lake, and Agnico Eagle and the KivIA have agreed to a Water Licence Condition limiting annual discharge to Meliadine Lake to 2.6 million cubic metres, consistent with the 2014 FEIS
- The KivIA does not expect to agree to any increase to this maximum limit in future amendments to the Water Licence
- While these improvements in quality and limits on quantity of discharge address some KivlA concerns, continued monitoring and management of Meliadine Lake is essential to ensure there are not impacts to Inuit use of the Lake

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#### **AEMP Reference Areas**

- There are concerns that the reference areas in the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan are influenced by mining effluent and do not allow for discrimination between climate- and mine- related impacts to Meliadine Lake
- Far field areas downstream of the mine show indications of increased concentrations of multiple metals found in the mine effluent, the magnitude of which decreases with distance from the discharge site.
- For an accurate assessment of minerelated vs climate change related impacts to Meliadine Lake, additional reference areas for water sampling should be included in the AEMP.

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#### **Lake B7 Remediation**

- The storage of saline groundwater instead
   of tailings in Lake B7 (SP6) raises the
   possibility of remediating B7 to sustain
   aquatic life and to be reconnected to the
   local watershed during closure and post closure.
- Agnico Eagle should provide further information on data gaps and planned studies for assessing the feasibility of B7 remediation

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# Water Compensation and Mine Security

- Discussions related to assessing
- security and water compensation are ongoing.

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### **Conclusion**

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The KivIA appreciates the opportunity to provide this presentation and thanks the NWB and Participants.

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