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- ᐱᕐᐸᓂᑦᑦ ᐃᒪᕐጥᑦ ᑲᑎᕐᑲᓗᐃᓂᕐᑯᑦ ᑕᓗᕐᑦᐃᕐ;
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- ለኢሥራክ ልዩ ስራ ካሳለፈች;
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- ልዩ ስራ (WTP); ልዩ
- ወደፊት ለሚመጣ ብቻ ስራ ስራ ስራ (TSS).

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Regulatory and Project Overview

This Type A Water Licence Application (Application) has been prepared to meet requirements of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* (NWNSTRA), and the Nunavut Water Regulations (NWR), but also considers the guidance provided by the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) in *Guide 4 – Completing and Submitting a Water Licence Application for a New Licence* and the *Supplemental Information Guide for Mining and Milling* (SIG-MM3 Guide). Concordance has been assessed for the requirements of the NWB Guidelines and SIG-MM3 Guide and commitments made during the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) Part 5 Review of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

The Meliadine Gold Project (Project) is subject to the land and resource management processes established by the NLCA and other Federal laws and regulations. Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle) is required in accordance with the NWNSTRA and NWR to submit a Type A Water Licence Application for a Mining and Milling Undertaking (Application) to the NWB to use water and to deposit waste in development of the Project.

The Application includes the NWB application form, the Main Application Document, and additional supporting documents to provide information on the proposed use of water, disposal of waste, and associated activities for the mining and milling undertaking, including information related to the planning and design, construction, operation, and reclamation phases of the Project.

The key Project information to support the Application is provided in the Main Application Document. This information includes the regulatory requirements, environmental setting, project description, water management, and summary information from the supporting management plans.

Agnico Eagle is developing the Project, located approximately 25 kilometres (km) north of Rankin Inlet, and 80 km southwest of the hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet in the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut. Situated on the western shore of Hudson Bay, the Project site is located on a peninsula between the east, south, and west basins of Meliadine Lake (63°1'23.8" N, 92°13'6.42"W) on Inuit Owned Land. The Project is located within the Meliadine Lake watershed of the Wilson Water Management Area (Nunavut Water Regulations Schedule 4).

The Project is composed of five known gold deposits: Tiriganiaq, F Zone, Pump, Wesmeg, and Discovery. Agnico Eagle proposes to develop these deposits in a phased approach to manage the initial capital investment required and to allow production to commence while ongoing exploration continues to increase the known ore reserve. The initial phase of development (Phase 1) focuses on the development of the Tiriganiaq gold deposit using a traditional open-pit mining method and underground mining. Phase 2 will be defined and permitted during Phase 1, once the other deposits are better defined through ongoing exploration drilling. Both Phase 1 and 2 are within the Project

that was the subject of the environmental and socio-economic assessment conducted by the NIRB, culminating in the issuance of Project Certificate No. 006.

Approximately 12.1 million tonnes (Mt) of ore will be mined from Tiriganiaq over a nominal mine life of approximately eight years. The operation will produce approximately 31.8 Mt of waste rock, 7.4 Mt of overburden waste, and 12.1 Mt of tailings. Proposed Phase 1 mining facilities in the area include a plant site and accommodation buildings, two open pits, three ore stockpiles, a tailings storage facility (TSF), three waste rock storage facilities (WRSFs), and a water management system including water treatment facilities, several water diversion channels, retention dikes/berms, collection ponds, and a discharge diffuser.

Project Summary

Ownership: Agnico Eagle Mines Limited is the sole owner of the Meliadine Gold Project.

Location: The proposed mine site is located on a peninsula extending into Meliadine Lake, 25 km north of Rankin Inlet and 80 km southwest of Chesterfield Inlet. It is located within the Meliadine Lake watershed of the Wilson Water Management Area (Nunavut Water Regulations Schedule 4).

Access: The existing All-weather Access Road (AWAR) provides access between Rankin Inlet and the proposed mine site. The AWAR is a 23.8 kilometre (km) private road built with a 6.5 m running surface between the Char River bridge turn-off and the proposed mine site, and has passing turnouts approximately every 400 ± 50 m.

Accommodation Infrastructure: The permanent camp will include accommodation, as well as a reception and security area, a kitchen and dining room, a laundry room, recreational facilities, an administration building, and a first-aid clinic.

Airstrip: The site will use Rankin Inlet's airport. There will not be an airstrip at the site.

Port: In Rankin Inlet, the established harbour at Itivia will be used to receive loaded ships/barges.

Mineral Claims: The gold deposits are situated on leased claims under the Canada Mining Regulations that were staked prior to the NLCA. The claim block covers 52,173 hectares (ha) and is approximately 80 km long.

Mining Methods: Traditional open pit and underground mining of the Tiriganiaq deposit. The mine production rate will be a maximum of 3,000 tonnes per day (tpd) from underground in Year 1 to Year 3, and 5,000 tpd from underground and open pit in Year 4 to Year 8. The mining and milling will take place 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Mining methods proposed are standard drill-and-blast, and truck-and-shovel methods.

Ore: A total of 12.1 Mt of ore will come from mining Tiriganiaq. The ore will be trucked via haul road to the process plant and facilities, or temporarily stored in the ore stockpiles.

Mining Areas: Open pit and underground mining are planned at the Tiriganiaq deposit. The mill site will be located immediately east of the Tiriganiaq deposit. The Project's total area of disturbance will be approximately 453 ha.

Life of Mine: An eight year active mine life based on estimated mineral resources for the Tiriganiaq deposit.

Life Cycle of Mining: Phase 1 focuses on the development of the Tiriganiaq gold deposit using a traditional open-pit mining method and underground mining. Phase 2 (F Zone, Pump, Wesmeg, and Discovery) will be defined and permitted during Phase 1.

Gold Resources: As of December 31, 2013, the proven reserves for Tiriganiaq were 2.8 million ounces of gold.

Mill Process: The ore will be processed using a conventional gold-milling circuit. The ore size will be reduced to the consistency of fine sand using a sequence of crushing and grinding circuits. A portion of the gold will be recovered in a gravity circuit. The remaining gold will be recovered using cyanidation and carbon adsorption, followed by elution, electrowinning, and refining. Residual cyanide will be recovered for reuse or removed from process water and disposed as hazardous waste. The final step in the mill process will be the smelting of gold bars on-site.

Personnel: The average Project workforce during construction is 200 personnel over five years. The average Project workforce during the eight years of operations is about 680, with the maximum in Year 4 at just over 800 personnel.

Water intake location: Meliadine Lake, northeast of the industrial pad.

Quantity of Water Required: Approximately 62,000 m³/year of freshwater will be required during the construction phase, and approximately 318,000 m³/year of freshwater will be required during operations.

Waste Rock: A total of 31.8 Mt of waste rock and 7.4 Mt of overburden will come from mining the Tiriganiaq open pit and underground. The waste rock and overburden will be trucked via haul road to a WRSF. Non-potentially acid generating and non-metal leaching waste rock and overburden will also be used as construction material.

Wastewater discharge location: A diffuser outfall into Meliadine Lake east of Collection Pond 1. Water from Collection Pond 1 will be discharged via a water treatment plant through the diffuser into Meliadine Lake.

Proposed Mine Site Infrastructure:

- gated access to Mine
- open pit mines
- underground mine
- underground mine access portal
- crusher
- ore processing facility (mill)
- emulsion plant
- tailings storage facility
- quarries and borrow pits
- ore storage facilities
- landfill
- waste rock storage facilities
- surface and underground water treatment facilities
- water storage facilities
- accommodation infrastructure
- haul roads
- All-weather Access Road from Rankin Inlet
- maintenance and on-site storage areas
- power generation
- fuel storage
- incinerators
- landfarm

Satellite Infrastructure in Rankin Inlet (Appendix A, Figure 1.2):

- fuel storage facility
- laydown and material storage area
- barge structure
- Bypass Road

Mine Plan Schedule

Mine development activities will occur in four phases: pre-development, construction, operations, and closure, with additional monitoring and mitigation continuing into post-closure.

Pre-development is defined as any construction activities as defined below but specific to activities allowed under the provision of the NLCA Article 13, Section 13.5.5 or the NWNSRTA. This phase will commence after receipt of the Project Certificate from the NIRB, the (new or amended) Type B Water Licence from the NWB, and the land use permit from the Kivalliq Inuit Association.

Construction is defined as any activities undertaken for the purposes of establishing or constructing components, infrastructure, and facilities required for development of a mine. Full mine site construction will commence following receipt of a Type A Water Licence from the NWB and Land Use Permit from the Kivalliq Inuit Association. Construction will take a little over four years between Year -5 and Year -1.

Operations is defined as the period that the Process Plant is operating and producing a commodity (i.e., gold). During the mine start-up, this will include a three month commissioning period planned for October to December (i.e., Q4) of Year -1.

Closure (Abandonment, Reclamation, and Closure) **and Post-Closure** is defined as an Operator ceasing operations at a facility without the intent of resuming mining activities. The expectation

will be that the site will be reclaimed and post-closure monitoring will continue until it can be demonstrated that the mine site is both chemically and physically stable.

Environmental Setting

The Project is located in the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut. Most of this region is part of the Southern Arctic Ecozone (Ecological Stratification Working Group 1996). This ecozone represents a major area of vegetative transition between the taiga forest to the south and the treeless Arctic tundra to the north. It is characterized by dwarf shrubs, mixed with various herbs and lichens. Wetlands are common in the low-lying areas and mainly support sedge-moss vegetation. The vegetation present plays an important role in the food chain (NPC 2000). Nearly all sedges, grasses, and fruticose lichens, as well as many herbaceous and woody plants, provide food for grazing animals. Birds and small rodents, that in turn become food of fur-bearing carnivores, consume seeds, winter buds and the roots of many species.

The climate in region of the Project is extreme with long cold winters and short cool summers. Temperatures are cool, with a mean temperature of 12°C in July and -31°C in January. The region is also known for high winds, which are due in part to the broad, flat, uninterrupted expanses offered to moving air masses (NPC 2000).

The physical features of the region have largely been determined by glaciation. The terrain consists of broadly rolling uplands and lowlands. Strung out across the landscape are long, sinuous eskers. This undulating landscape is studded with innumerable lakes, ponds, and wetlands. Cryosols are the dominant soils, and are underlain by continuous permafrost with active layers that are usually moist or wet throughout the summer.

The region includes the major summer range and calving grounds for Canada's largest caribou herds. The major one is the Qamanirjuaq herd, which is the main food source for the local Inuit. This ecozone is also a major breeding and nesting ground for a variety of migratory birds. Meliadine Lake contains fish species that are eaten by the communities, including Arctic char, Arctic grayling, and lake trout.

The Kivalliq Region is sparsely populated. It is part of the Inuit homeland and Inuit form over 80% of the population (Ecological Stratification Working Group 1996). Much of the economy is based on subsistence hunting, trapping, and fishing. Mineral exploration and mining activities, as well as construction, some tourism, and government services are the other principal activities.

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

During the environmental assessment process, Agnico Eagle made a commitment to consider Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) in management plans for the Project moving forward. As the Project advances through permitting, and if approved, into construction, operations, and closure, Agnico Eagle will continue active engagement with local communities and Inuit organizations. Additional IQ,

as it becomes available, will be included in updates to the design and implementation of Project environmental programs. This will ensure that the combination of science and IQ leads to monitoring that meets the expectations of local communities, Inuit organizations, and government. A summary of how IQ was used in management and monitoring plans is provided in plans submitted as part of the Application.

Supporting Management Plans

The following supporting management and monitoring plans have been developed in support of the Application:

- Mine Plan
- Environmental Management and Protection Plan
- Water Management Plan
- Ore Storage Management Plan
- Mine Waste Management Plan
- Roads Management Plan
- Borrow Pits and Quarries Management Plan
- Landfill and Waste Management Plan
- Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan
- Incineration Management Plan
- Hazardous Materials Management Plan
- Explosives Management Plan
- Risk Management and Emergency Response Plan
- Spill Contingency Plan
- Preliminary Closure and Reclamation Plan
- Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) Design Plan
- Landfarm Management Plan
- Public Engagement and Consultation Baseline Report

In addition, supporting appendices are included with many of these plans. For example, the Water Management Plan includes supporting appendices for diffuser design, site water quality, and proposed effluent quality criteria. The Roads Management Plan includes a dust management plan appendix. A summary of the key plans is provided below.

Mine Water Management

Water management goals for the Project are to minimize potential impacts to the quantity and quality of surface water at the mine site. Water management structures (water retention dikes/berms and diversion channels) will be constructed as needed to contain and manage the contact water from the areas affected by the mine or mining activities. The major water management infrastructure includes the following:

- six water collection ponds;
- five water retention dikes;
- three water diversion berms;
- eight water diversion channels;
- a Water Treatment Plant (WTP); and

- an underground total suspended solid (TSS) removal plant.

During mine construction and operations, contact water originating from affected areas on surface will be intercepted, diverted, and collected within the various collection ponds. The collected water on the mine site will be eventually pumped and stored in Collection Pond (CP1), where the contact water will be treated by the WTP, if necessary, prior to discharge to Meliadine Lake through a submerged diffuser, or used as make-up water by the process plant. Approximately 0.73 million m³ of water will be discharged annually through the diffuser.

Contact water from the underground mine will be collected in sumps and treated by the underground TSS removal plant. Some treated water from underground will be reused for underground operation, and the balance will be pumped to surface for storage. An intensive groundwater study will be undertaken during pre-development and construction to confirm the amount of groundwater that will require storage and to determine a final management option for any excess groundwater.

Major freshwater usages on-site include potable use, dust suppression, portion of make-up water for the mill, and other operational needs, such as drilling water if contact water from CP1 is not available, and water for the truck shop. Freshwater will be sourced from Meliadine Lake through a freshwater intake and pump system.

Where possible, water from the WTP will be the main source of water for the mill process. Additional water needs will be supplied by freshwater. Approximately 460 m³/day of process water will be required in Year 1 to Year 3 of operations, and approximately 770 m³/day of process water will be required in Year 4 to Year 8.

Mine Waste Management

Waste rock and overburden will be trucked to the WRSFs until the end of mine operations, with distribution according to an operation schedule. Results of geochemical testing indicate that the produced waste rock and overburden is non-potentially acid generating (NPAG) and non-metal leaching. Three areas have been identified as WRSFs.

Of the total 12.1 Mt of tailings produced, about 9.7 Mt of tailings will be placed in the TSF as dry stack while the remaining 2.4 Mt will be backfilled to the underground mine. The produced tailings are considered to be non-acid generating (NPAG). The TSF consists of three cells, which will be operated one by one to facilitate progressive closure during mine operations.

The WRSFs and TSF were designed and will be operated to minimize the impact on the environment, and to consider geotechnical and geochemical stability. The surface runoff and seepage water from the storage facilities will be diverted via channels and collected in water collection ponds (CPs) for pumping to CP1.

Closure Planning

The goal of the Project closure is to carry out required closure activities and establish self-sustaining ecosystems with land uses similar to pre-development conditions. The Project Closure and Reclamation Plan will be updated through the construction and operational phases of the Project, as new information (such as monitoring results) become available.

An engineered cover will be progressively placed on the surface of the TSF. The proposed cover includes a 0.5 m thick layer of overburden followed by a layer of 2.5 m thick waste rock on the top of the facility, and a 3.7 to 4.2 m thick layer of waste rock on the facility sideslopes. The overburden layer is intended to limit runoff water infiltration into the tailings. It is anticipated that the covered TSF will naturally re-vegetate with native lichen.

The WRSFs will be designed and constructed for long-term stability, thus no additional re-grading or construction will be required at closure. The WRSFs will be allowed to naturally re-vegetate with native lichen.

Salvageable buildings and surface structures will be dismantled and demobilized from the site. The buildings will be offered to the Kivalliq Inuit Association (the land owner) at closure for potential re-use elsewhere. Non-salvageable buildings and structures will be dismantled or demolished and inert non-hazardous materials disposed of in the landfill area in WRSF1. Hazardous wastes will be removed for disposal by a licensed handler. Contaminated soils will be excavated and hauled to the landfarm area for remediation.

In Rankin Inlet, the laydown area will be reclaimed, the barge and tank farm dismantled and, if necessary, disposed off-site at an approved disposal facility. The Government of Nunavut owns the land for the facilities in Rankin Inlet and it is important to note that the proposed fuel tank farm and laydown area are all situated on lands leased from the Government of Nunavut and thus Agnico Eagle's commitment is to remove all of these facilities.

The AWAR, all site roads, and Rankin Inlet Bypass Road will be decommissioned and the terrain restored when no longer required. The AWAR will be completely removed once post-closure maintenance requirements at the mine site are anticipated to be minor. Reclamation and closure of quarries and granular borrow pits will depend on individual site conditions.

All disturbed site areas will be re-graded to suit the surrounding topography. In areas where the original ground surface was lowered for site grading or structural requirements, the slopes will be stabilized and contoured. Cover materials may be required for erosion and dust control. It is anticipated that a succession of indigenous plant species will naturally re-vegetate the surface over time.

Following completion of mining, the open pits will be flooded with water from Meliadine Lake over a period of three years. The maximum pumping rate will be based on the maximum allowable

drawdown rate from Meliadine Lake, regulated by the Type A Water Licence. During mine closure, the water management infrastructure on-site will remain in place until mine closure activities are completed and monitoring demonstrates that the water quality is acceptable for discharge to the receiving environment without treatment.

The WTP will be decommissioned once it is no longer required; when water quality from the mine components meets licence criteria for direct discharge. The WTP and Meliadine Lake discharge diffuser will be maintained for 3 water treatment seasons as a contingency before being dismantled and disposed of in an appropriate landfill facility either on-site or in Rankin Inlet (if approved).

The long-term, post-closure water quality in the ponds and in the flooded open pit lakes will meet Canadian water quality limits defined by the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations limits and will meet the Canadian water quality guidelines for the protection of aquatic life (Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment or CCME-WQG) and the Meliadine Site Specific Water Quality Objectives (SSWQOs) developed for aluminum, fluoride, and iron. These SSWQOs are conservatively protective of Meliadine Lake and Lake B7 (i.e., the primary receiving environment). Arsenic concentrations in one of the collection ponds (CP4) could slightly exceed the SSWQO; however, the concentrations are much less than the mixing capacity in the receiving environment (i.e. Lake B7). These arsenic concentrations (Golder 2013) are within the tolerance levels that have been deemed non deleterious by Environment Canada for the Project (EC 2014). This means that following closure, it is expected that there will be no significant adverse effects on existing opportunities for traditional and non-traditional use of fish, health of aquatic life and human health.

Monitoring Programs

Environmental monitoring for the Project consists of three forms as follows:

- Regulated discharge monitoring occurs at monitoring points specified in licenses or regulations. It includes discharge limits that must be achieved to maintain compliance with an authorization (i.e., water licence) or regulation (i.e., Metal Mining Effluent Regulations). Enforcement action may be taken if discharge limits are exceeded for a parameter.
- Verification monitoring is carried out for operational and management purposes by Agnico Eagle. This type of monitoring provides data for decision making and builds confidence in the success of processes being used. There is no obligation to report verification monitoring results, although some monitoring locations and results may be mentioned in environmental management plans (i.e., sampling to verify soil remediation in the landfarm).
- General monitoring is commonly included in a water licence specifying what is to be monitored according to a schedule². It covers all types of monitoring (i.e., geotechnical, lake

² Referred to in Northwest Territories and old NWB licenses as the Surveillance Network Program.

levels, etc.). This monitoring is subject to compliance assessment to confirm sampling was carried out using established protocols, included quality assurance/quality control provisions, and addressed identified issues. General monitoring is subject to change as directed by an Inspector, or by the Licensee, subject to approval by the NWB.

The sum of all three types of monitoring will provide sufficiently robust data to support decisions in mine management for the Project.

An Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program is a requirement of the Type A Water Licence to be issued by the NWB. The Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program design plan for the Project was developed through consultation with communities, stakeholders, and regulatory authorities. It is an integrated monitoring program study design and is harmonized with the Environmental Effects Monitoring requirement of the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations.

Two distinct programs are proposed for the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (the Meliadine Lake study and the Peninsula Lakes study) with the design dictated by Project design, IQ, consultation, and regulatory requirements. Both IQ and community consultation emphasized the importance of clean water and the health of fish and wildlife to Elders and other people in the communities who rely on these resources for traditional use. Elders have expressed concerns regarding potential adverse effects due to the Project on drinkability of water and fish populations in waterbodies in the entire Meliadine watershed. To focus the study design and analysis of results in the annual monitoring reports, key questions were developed for each monitoring component in each of the two studies.