

File No: 2AM-MEL1631

To: Meliadine Distribution List

Date: June 26, 2024

Subject: Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Report regarding an Application to amend

existing Type A Water Licence No: 2AM-MEL1631

This Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Report is in relation to an application filed by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle or Applicant) for an amendment to existing type A Water Licence No: 2AM-MEL1631 for the Meliadine Gold Project (the Water Licence). Agnico Eagle proposes to amend the scope of the existing Water Licence to include mining of four additional deposits and add associated project infrastructure for the Project and seeks to increase the annual freshwater consumption limit set in the Water Licence (the Amendment Application or Application). As indicated by the Nunavut Planning Commission, and confirmed by the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board), all of the activities, works and undertakings included in the Amendment Application (as outlined in greater detail under the Scope of the Current Application subheading in this Report) were previously assessed by the Nunavut Impact Review Board, and the Amendment Application did not require additional conformity or impact assessment before consideration by the NWB.

On June 25, 2024, the Members of the Meliadine Panel (the Panel or P15 Panel), duly appointed by the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) as the decision-makers for the file met by teleconference to consider the next steps in the NWB's processing of the Application. By Motion #2024-06-P15-03, the Panel approved the release of this Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Report. In addition, by Motion #2024-06-P15-04, the Panel authorized the issuance of the procedural direction in this Report that directs the next steps in the Board's processing of the Amendment Application, the conduct of an in-person Public Hearing in Rankin Inlet. The NWB has tentatively set the date for the Public Hearing to occur sometime in the week of **September 9 – 13, 2024** (with audio and video links being provided to parties unable to travel to Rankin Inlet and members of the public unable to attend the venue for the Public Hearing).



Formal Notice of Public Hearing will be published on **July 5, 2024**. Please note that despite issuing the Notice of Public Hearing, the Board may modify the schedule and format of the Public Hearing on short notice if circumstances warrant, including, if Public Hearing logistics dictate; or if parties fail to supply the documentation required to be supplied in advance of the Public Hearing in accordance with the timelines set out in this Report, if public concerns with the Application are identified, if public health and safety circumstances dictate, etc. More specific details regarding the timelines and conduct of the Public Hearing are outlined under the subheadings <u>Timetable for Pre-Hearing Exchange of Information</u> and <u>Procedures for the Public Hearing</u> of this Report.

This Report also provides information regarding the key steps in the Board's processing of the Amendment Application to date. As set out in greater detail in the body of the Report, following several rounds of requests for information and exchange of written comments and reply in relation to the Amendment Application, in accordance with Rule 14 of the NWB *Rules of Practice and Procedure for Public Hearings* (the *Rules*), and the previous direction and delegation of authority from the Meliadine Panel to the staff of the NWB, the NWB's staff held an in-person Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference (TM/PHC) for the Application in Rankin Inlet on June 5-6, 2024. The list of the parties in attendance are provided in this Report in APPENDIX B: Attendees at TM/PHC.

The NWB staff also hosted a Community Session on the evening of June 5, 2024. As directed by the NWB's decision-making panel for this file (Panel P15), the focus of the Community Session was to provide community members from Rankin Inlet with an opportunity to ask questions and get responses from the NWB staff, the Applicant and the Interveners regarding the Amendment Application.

The Final Agendas for each of these meetings are attached to this Decision in <u>APPENDIX A:</u> <u>TM/Community Session/PHC Agendas</u>). The individuals representing the NWB, the Applicant and the Interveners are listed in <u>APPENDIX B: Attendees at TM/Community Session/PHC</u>. The commitments generated and reviewed by the parties during the TM/PHC are listed in <u>APPENDIX</u> D: List of Commitments.

As summarized in greater detail in <u>Table 1</u> the members of the community of Rankin Inlet shared their knowledge, and provided questions and comments about the following issues in relation to the Amendment Application:

- Impacts associated with the discharge of saline groundwater into Itivia Harbour;
- The water licensing and water quality monitoring processes; and
- Effects on water quality and the potential for effects on people and wildlife (fish and caribou) if water quality is impacted.



As set out in Rule 14.1 of the *Rules*, the PHC dealt with the following matters relevant to the Application:

- Timetable for the pre-Hearing exchange of information;
- Identification of interested parties;
- Submissions of interested parties;
- List of issues to be dealt with at the Public Hearing;
- Desirability of amending the Application for the purpose of clarification;
- Procedures for the Public Hearing; and
- Identification of any other matters that may assist in the simplification and disposition of the Application or the conduct of the Public Hearing.

Having considered the Application and supporting materials submitted by the Applicant as summarized in <u>APPENDIX C: List of Application Submissions</u>, the technical review comments in respect of the Application received to date by the NWB, the discussions during the Technical Meeting, the questions, issues and comments identified by participants during the Pre-Hearing Conference, and the commitments of the Applicant as outlined in <u>APPENDIX D: List of Commitments</u>, the Panel has concluded that the Application is ready to proceed to the Public Hearing stage of the Board's consideration of the Application.

Reflecting the interest in the Amendment Application and level of engagement of members of the public during the Community Session, and the views expressed by Agnico Eagle and all Intervenors, the Board considers it important to conduct an in-person Public Hearing in the community of Rankin Inlet during the week of September 9-13, 2024. The Public Hearing will include technical sessions and an in-person Community Session in the evening and will be conducted in accordance with the timelines and other procedural details provided in the text that follows. Although the Board emphasizes the importance of parties' attending in-person to the extent possible, the Board also recognizes, there may be limits on travel and accommodation that could prevent some participants from being able to travel to Rankin Inlet. Accordingly, the Board will provide remote access options for those participants unable to travel.

Introduction and Registration

The following participants registered in advance and attended the TM/Community Session/Pre-Hearing Conference in-person and virtually via audio/video conference on June 5-6, 2024:

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle or Applicant) representatives:

- Jamie Quesnel Director, Permitting and Regulatory Affairs
- Pujjuut Kusugak Director Nunavut Affairs



- Luc Chouinard Project Manager Meliadine Extension
- Manon Turmel Permitting and Regulatory Affairs Superintendent
- Colleen Prather Permitting Technical Advisor, Water Management
- Jennifer Range Regulatory Specialist
- Sara Savoie Environmental Superintendent
- Edward Malindzak Permitting Specialist, Aquatics
- Scott Jackson Consultant, Senior Hydrologist with Lorax
- Christine Kowbel Legal Counsel, Lawson Lundell

Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA) representatives:

- Luis Manzo Director of Lands
- Matthew McDougall Aquatic Specialist
- Alan Sexton Geologist
- Jonathan Katz Legal Counsel, Taylor McCaffrey
- Tiana Romeo (law student) (attended remotely), Taylor McCaffrey

Nunavut Tungavik Incorporated (NTI) representatives:

- Ezra Greene Acting Manager
- Gail Wallace Senior Advisor (attended remotely)
- Dominique Nouvet Legal Counsel (attended remotely)

Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) representatives:

- Jeff Hart Acting Director of Resource Management
- Andrew Keim Manager, Water Resource Management
- Tony Brown Consultant (Arcadis)
- Gerd Wiatska Consultant (Arcadis)(attended remotely)

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) representatives:

- Russel Wykes Acting Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
- Sarah Forte Environmental Assessment Officer
- Stephinie Mallon Environmental Assessment Officer (attended remotely)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) representatives:

- Christopher Shapka Biologist (attended remotely)
- Derek Donald Biologist (attended remotely)



Nunavut Water Board (NWB) representatives:

- Stephanie Autut Executive Director
- Karén Kharatyan Director of Technical Services
- Mohammad Ali Shaikh Technical Advisor
- Ben Kogvik Director of Board Administration and Communications and Interpreter/ Translator for the Community Session
- Richard Dwyer Manager of Licensing Services
- Abid Jan Technical Advisor
- Nidhi Singh Technical Advisor
- Teresa Meadows Legal Counsel, Meadows Law

Members of the public:

 James Young – Water Treatment Plant Operator, Government of Nunavut (GN-CGS) (attended remotely)

The listings of the parties participating in the TM/Community Session/PHC audio/video conference on June 5-6, 2024 are attached as <u>APPENDIX B: Attendees at TM/Community Session/PHC</u> to this Report.

1.0 The Application before the Board

The Application before the Board was filed by Agnico Eagle on January 26, 2024 and proposes amendments to the existing type A Water Licence No: 2AM-MEL1631 to include additional activities to the existing operations and project infrastructure associated with the construction/operation/closure of Agnico Eagle's Meliadine Gold Project (the Amendment Application or Application). The Amendment Application seeks the NWB's authorization of specific changes (described below) to the existing use of water and deposit of waste associated with a Mining undertaking¹ at the existing Meliadine Gold mine. The documents filed by the Applicant in support of the Amendment Application are listed in detail in APPENDIX C: List of Application Submissions.

¹ SOR/2013-69, Schedule 1, Item 2, Column 2, describes a "Mining undertaking" as: Exploration or prospecting — including bulk sampling — for minerals other than petroleum or gas, the operation of a mine, the processing of minerals other than petroleum or gas, the restoration of the site of a mine and any other mining activity other than an industrial activity described in item 1, column 2 [of Schedule 1].



All of the Applicant's submissions are available from the NWB's public registry at the following link:

ftp://ftp.nwb-oen.ca/registry/2%20MINING%20MILLING/2A/2AM%20-%20Mining/2AM-MEL1631%20Agnico/1%20APPLICATION/2024%20Amendment

All documentation associated with the Amendment Application and received from the Applicant, the Board, intervening parties and the public is available from the NWB's public registry at the following link:

ftp://ftp.nwb-oen.ca/registry/2%20MINING%20MILLING/2A/2AM%20-%20Mining/2AM-MEL1631%20Agnico

Scope of the Current Amendment Application

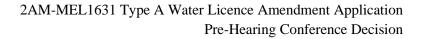
Agnico Eagle is proposing to add the following activities to the scope of the current type A Water Licence:

- Increase in the annual freshwater consumption as follows:
 - o Operations: currently 742,000 m³/year, increase to 1,100,296 m³/year;
 - O Closure: currently 4,000,000 m³/year, increase to 8,676,481 m³/year;
- Open pit mining of Pump, F Zone, Wesmeg, and Discovery deposits;
- Temporary ore stockpiles (three facilities located near Pump, F Zone, and Discovery);
- Tailings Storage Facility capacity increase to 20.6 m³;
- Additional waste rock storage facilities (WRSF6, WRSF7, WRSF9);
- Addition of Saline Pond (SP6);
- Contact water infrastructure associated with mining of Pump, F Zone, Wesmeg, and Discovery deposits;
- Dewatering of the Lakes/Ponds to support mining at Pump, F Zone, Wesmeg, and Discovery deposit sites;
- Fuel storage capacity increase at Rankin Inlet Itivia site from 37.5 million litres (ML) to 80 ML.

2.0 Regulatory and Procedural History of the Amendment Application

Current Amendment Application

On January 26, 2024, the NWB received the type A Water Licence amendment application and supporting documentation (the Amendment Application or Application) submitted by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle or Applicant) for the Meliadine Gold Project (the Project).





After initial review, the NWB commenced the Completeness Check for the Amendment Application on January 29, 2024. Parties were invited to review the Amendment Application for completeness and provide Information Requests (IRs) to the Board by February 9, 2024. After an extension to February 16, submissions were received from the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA), Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

On March 1, 2024, the Applicant provided their responses to the parties' IRs and recommendations. Intervenors were requested to confirm whether the Applicant's responses were satisfactory. The KivIA responded on March 6, 2024, that they had no further concerns and were ready to participate in the technical review of the Amendment Application. On March 6, 2024, the NWB received correspondence from CIRNA, requesting an extension to the comment period to March 21, 2024.

The NWB did not grant the full two-week extension but did grant a 7-day extension to March 13, 2024, reminding intervenors that the NWB was looking for their feedback only in relation to the completeness of the information provided to date, which would be followed by full technical review and comment stage. On March 8, 2024, Agnico Eagle expressed concerns² about the delays to the Board's processing of the Amendment Application resulting from the request and the Board's grant of the extension.

Subsequently, the NWB received a second round of comment submissions from CIRNA, ECCC and DFO on March 13, 2024. Agnico Eagle submitted their second-round responses on March 21, 2024.

On March 26, 2024 the Board deemed the Amendment Application to be complete and gave Notice of Amendment Application and invited parties to commence their full technical review of the Amendment Application and provide their comments/recommendations to the Board by April 26, 2024. This correspondence also included tentative timelines for the Technical Meeting and Prehearing Conference (TM/PHC). The NWB received written comment submissions from KivIA, CIRNA, ECCC and DFO, on or before April 26, 2024.

Parties confirmed their attendance at the TM/PHC and submitted their presentations on or before May 24 2024. The NWB conducted the TM/PHC in-person in Rankin Inlet, on June 5-6, 2024. A Community Session was also conducted on the evening of June 5, 2024.

² J. Range to R. Dwyer, RE: 2AM-MEL1631 Amendment Application Completeness Check, March 8, 2024.



Licences Issued to the Project

Reflecting the NWB's jurisdiction for licensing undertakings requiring the use of water and deposit of waste as established under Article 13 of the *Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (Nunavut Agreement) and the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 10 (NWNSRTA or Act), the NWB has previously issued one (1) Licence and two (2) Amendments for this undertaking to date.

1. Licence No: 2AM-MEL1631

- o Issued on April 15, 2016;
- Allowed for the use of 62,000 cubic metres of water annually for construction, 318,000 cubic metres of water annually for operations, 4,000,000 cubic metres of water annually for closure, and the deposit of waste in support of a Mining Undertaking.

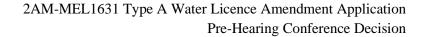
i. Amendment No 1: 2AM-MEL1631

- o Effective date April 29, 2020 and expired on October 31, 2020;
- Processed as an emergency amendment necessary to prevent damage to water management infrastructure;
- O Allowed for the time-limited discharge of effluent from Containment Pond 1 (CP1) into Meliadine Lake through the Meliadine Lake Outfall Diffuser (Monitoring Program Station MEL-14) and required that the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) not exceed 3,500 mg/L for the Maximum Average Concentration (MAC) in the effluent discharged from CP1. of

ii. Amendment No 2: 2AM-MEL1631

- o Issued on May 13, 2021;
- Allowed for the use of 62,000 cubic metres of water annually for construction, 742,000 cubic metres of water annually for operations, 4,000,000 cubic metres of water annually for closure, and the deposit of waste in support of a Mining Undertaking;
- o Amendments were made to the effluent quality limits, security, increase in freshwater usage and requirements to provide additional information.

Pre-Licensing Requirements





The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC)

On January 25, 2024, the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) issued its conformity determination³ for the Amendment Application which stated the following:

- The project conforms to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP);
- The activities associated with this proposal were previously reviewed by the NPC, and conformity determinations were issued on June 8, 2011, December 22, 2016, January 5, 2018, March 25, 2020, April 1, 2022 and January 22, 2024, which still apply;
- The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) previously screened the works and activities included in the current Licence and the associated Amendments (NIRB FILE No. 11MN034); and
- The Amendment Application is exempt from screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB), because the project proposal does not change the general scope of the original or previously amended project activities and the exceptions noted in Section 12.4.3 (a) and (b) of the *Nunavut Agreement* do not apply.

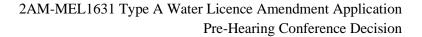
Nunavut Water Board (NWB)

In its written submissions filed on March 13, 2024, the Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) expressed the view that two project components included in the Amendment Application (specifically temporary ore stockpiles located near Pump, F Zone, and Discovery and the potential use of Lake B7 as a Saline Pond (SP6)) had not been within the scope of the Meliadine Gold project proposal as previously assessed by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB). On March 21, 2024, the NWB addressed this issue⁴ as follows:

In reviewing the NIRB's summaries and conclusions, the focus appeared to be the potential for effects associated with storing waste (tailings) in Lake B7, and it does not appear to the NWB that the potential change in use from storing tailings to storing saline water

³ Correspondence dated January 25, 2024 from G. Djalogue, Nunavut Planning Commission to R. Dwyer, NWB (and others) Re: NPC File # 150252 [Meliadine Mine Water Licence Amendment].

⁴ Correspondence dated March 21, 2024 from K. Kharatyan, NWB to Aminul Haque, CIRNA, Re: Follow up regarding comments provided by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) on completeness in relation to an application to amend type A Water Licence 2AM-MEL1631, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, Meliadine Gold Project.





would significantly modify the potential for effects as assessed by the NIRB in 2014. This is consistent with the Commission's conformity determination and referral of the Amendment Application to the NWB for consideration. Accordingly, the NWB has determined that the conformity and impact assessment requirements under the Nunavut Agreement, Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 and s. 38(1) of the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act, S.C. 2002, c. 10 associated with activities, works and undertakings included in the Amendment Application have been met.

The NWB further stated that:

...the NWB acknowledges that the potential for the use of Lake B7 to store saline water to change water use and water quality and require consequential amendments to the approved Groundwater Management Plan under the Water Licence are expected to be topics of discussion during the NWB's consideration of the Amendment Application.

...With respect to CIRNAC's comment related to temporary ore stockpiles, the Board notes that ore stockpiles were generally assessed in 2014, therefore the temporary ore stockpiling is not specifically additional activity and is mainly reflected by operational decisions or needs and wouldn't require specific assessment by the NIRB. The Board finds that the NWB licensing is the appropriate process to discuss this proposed activity.

As a result, the NWB has concluded that the applicable pre-licensing conformity and impact assessment requirements for the Amendment Application under Articles 11 and 12 of the Nunavut Agreement, Part 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (NuPPAA) and ss. 38 and 39 of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 10 (NWNSRTA) have been met, and the Amendment Application can be processed by the NWB.

Procedural History

The following section includes a brief overview of the procedural history for the Amendment Application. It should be noted that the following listing captures only the major procedural steps associated with the Amendment Application. All documentation and the complete record of the



NWB's processing of the file are available from the NWB's ftp site at the links provided in <u>Section 1.0</u> of this Report.

January 26, 2024

NWB received the type A Water Licence amendment application and supporting documentation (the Amendment Application or Application) submitted by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle or Applicant) for the Meliadine Gold Project (the Project)

January 29, 2024

After initial review, the NWB commenced the Completeness Check where parties were invited to review the Amendment Application for completeness and provide Information Requests (IRs) by February 9, 2024

February 16, 2024

After an extension, submissions and Information Requests (IRs) were received from the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA), Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

March 1, 2024

The Applicant provided responses to Interveners' Information Requests

March 6, 2024

The KivIA responded that they had no further concerns and were ready to move to the Technical Review stage. CIRNA on behalf of federal agencies requested an extension until March 21, 2024

March 13, 2024

The NWB granted an extension until March 13, 2024; and received a second round of submissions on completeness from CIRNA, ECCC and DFO

March 21, 2024

Agnico Eagle provided responses to the second round of submissions from intervenors

March 26, 2024

NWB gave Notice of the Amendment Application and invited parties to conduct a full technical review and provide their comments/recommendations by April 26, 2024. This correspondence also included tentative timelines for the TM/PHC



April 26, 2024	Submissions were received from KivIA), CIRNA, ECCC and DFO			
May 10, 2024	Agnico Eagle responded to Interveners' comments			
May 16, 2024	NWB distributed the draft agenda for the Technical Meeting (TM), Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) and Community Session along with the updated timelines for the next steps in the process			
May 24, 2024	The NWB received confirmation of participation in the meetings and presentation documents from KivIA, CIRNA, ECCC, DFO and Agnico Eagle			
May 29, 2024	NWB provided the Final Agendas for the TM/PHC, including the Community Session			
<u>June 5, 2024</u>	NWB hosted the TM in-person in Rankin Inlet, followed by a Community Session held in the evening			
June 6, 2024	NWB completed the TM and hosted the PHC in Rankin Inlet			

Complete information related to the procedural history of the Amendment Application and the information filed with the NWB associated with the Amendment Application can be accessed from the NWB's FTP site and Public Registry using the following link:

 $\frac{ftp://ftp.nwb-oen.ca/registry/2\%20MINING\%20MILLING/2A/2AM\%20-\\ \%20Mining/2AM-MEL1631\%20Agnico/}$

3.0 Technical Review Comments Received by the Board

Prior to the Technical Meeting (TM) and Pre-hearing Conference (PHC) several opportunities to comment on the Amendment Application were provided to Interveners and members of the public. The Board's first request for comments asked parties to consider whether the Amendment Application was complete and to identify any outstanding issues that should prevent the Board from continuing to process the Amendment Application, including any additional information requests (IRs) that must be addressed before the parties could commence their technical review of the Amendment Application. The first completeness comment period closed on February 16, 2024



(this deadline reflects Intervener requests for extensions granted by the NWB). A second round of comments on completeness and IRs were received by the Board on March 13, 2024.

On March 26, 2024, Notice of the Amendment Application was issued by the NWB, and the technical comment period commenced, with a deadline for parties and the public to file their technical comments with the Board by April 26, 2024. The sections that follow outline the comments provided during these review periods, and also reflect comments provided to the Board during the TM/PHC.

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle or Applicant)

In addition to the original Amendment Application and supplemental information submitted by Agnico Eagle on January 26, 2024, the Applicant provided additional information in response to technical comments submitted by various intervening parties, including the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA), Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). For ease of reference, the specific topics, and outcomes, of the Interveners' comment submissions are summarized in the sections that follow.

Agnico Eagle, in their closing statement at the Technical Meeting (TM), reaffirmed their commitments to provide the information summarized in <u>APPENDIX D: List of Commitments</u>. Before the Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) on June 6, 2024, the Applicant resolved a number of the technical issues identified by the Interveners and a number of commitments were added to the Commitments List.

Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA)

The KivIA is the representative of the Inuit beneficiaries of the Kivalliq Region at both the territorial and regional levels and supports sustainable economic development opportunities for Inuit beneficiaries. KivIA's participation in the review of the Amendment Application was focused on ensuring that adequate protection of the environment occurs by requiring the Applicant to implement best practices in their mitigation and monitoring programs.

The KivIA technical review raised a number of issues, with a focus on the following topics:

- Quantity and quality of discharges to Meliadine Lake;
- Updates to the Security Management and Water Compensation Agreements;
- Additional reference areas for the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan (AEMP);
- Details on remediation of Lake B7; and
- Updates to the Adaptive Management Plan.



The following commitments were agreed upon by the Applicant, resulting from KivIA's comments and discussions during the TM.

- WLA-01 Agnico Eagle agreed to the addition of a condition in the Licence setting discharge quantity limits into Meliadine Lake;
- WLA-02 Agnico Eagle confirmed that underground saline groundwater will continue to be managed separately from surface contact water;
- WLA-03 Agnico Eagle committed to monitoring Lake B7 throughout the life of mine;
- WLA-04 Agnico Eagle committed to updating the Adaptive Management Plan, to integrate the prioritized discharge strategy, prior to the Public Hearing;
- WLA-05 Agnico Eagle committed to do a three-year reference lake study monitoring program, initiating in 2025, that includes Peter Lake and an additional reference lake, as well as existing reference stations at Inuggugayualik Lake and Pipedream Lake located near the Meadowbank Mine Site (ECCC's comment #15 is related to this commitment); and
- WLA-17 Agnico Eagle committed to hold an in-person meeting with the KivIA and CIRNA, annually after the annual report submission and before discharging effluent to Itivia harbour, to provide updates regarding contact water and saline water management, review forecasted conditions and collaborate for the Community Open House.

Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA)

CIRNA administers Crown land and resources and enforces regulatory permits affecting land and water resources in Nunavut, including enforcing the provisions of water licences issued by the NWB under the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 10 (NWNSRTA or Act) and *Nunavut Waters Regulations*, SOR/2013-69.

Reflecting CIRNA's responsibilities and jurisdiction, the following key issues were highlighted in CIRNA's initial comment submissions on the completeness of the Amendment Application, their technical review comment submissions and were discussed during the Technical Meeting (TM).

CIRNA made the following comments and IRs during the comment period for the NWB's Completeness Check (February 16, 2024)



- Recommending that the Applicant provide an updated Water Quality and Load Balance Model (WQLBM) and an Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan (ICRP);
- Recommending that the Applicant provide a Stability Evaluation of Waste Rock Storage Facilities;
- Requesting that the Applicant provide evidence that the use of Lake B7 as a Saline Pond (SP6) was assessed under NIRB Project Certificate No. 006; and
- Requesting removal of activities referencing the Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) or evidence demonstrating that the AMP is part of the current Water Licence.

CIRNA provided the following technical review comments (April 26, 2024):

- Recommending that the NWB review and set conditions for the approval of the AMP;
- Clarifications and recommendations around minimizing discharges to Meliadine Lake;
- Recommending revisions to the AMP;
- Requesting the Applicant to submit a qualitative technical memo describing the implications of storing saline water in Lake B7;
- Revisions to the Water Quality and Load Balance Model (WQLBM);
- Requesting clarifications for the differences in groundwater inflow rates in the Water Management Plan;
- Requesting clarifications for the differences in ore and tailings production rates in the Waste Management Plan; and
- Confirmation of annual freshwater requirements for the mill.

The following commitments were agreed upon by the Applicant, resulting from CIRNA's comments and discussions during the TM.

 WLA-16 – Agnico Eagle committed to meeting with CIRNA, prior to the Public Hearing, to discuss unresolved items regarding the Adaptive Management Plan (AMP).

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)



The focus of ECCC's involvement in respect of the Amendment Application is based on their jurisdiction under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*,⁵ the *Species at Risk Act*⁶ and ECCC's jurisdiction under the pollution prevention provisions of the *Fisheries Act*.⁷

The following key issues were highlighted in ECCC's initial comment submissions on the completeness of the Amendment Application, their technical review submissions and were discussed during the Technical Meeting (TM).

ECCC provided the following comments and IRs during the Completeness Check (February 16, 2024):

- Clarifications regarding changes to air quality monitoring on-site;
- Clarifications regarding water needs related to dust control;
- Recommending updates to Risk Management and Emergency Response Plan and Spill Contingency Plan to reflect changes requested in this Amendment Application;
- Clarifications regarding mutual aid agreements on the All-Weather Access Road (AWAR);
- Recommending spill modelling studies for operations in Itivia Harbour, Melvin Bay;
- Secondary Containment and Storage Considerations for Storing Hazardous Materials;
- Requesting to have a discussion regarding proposed withdrawal limits;
- Requesting updates to the Terrestrial Environment Management and Monitoring Plan (TEMMP);
- Requesting commissioning details about the Saline Effluent Treatment Plant (SETP);
- Requesting a map clearly identifying and labelling all lakes and ponds that will be overprinted;
- Clarification of the Itivia Fuel Tank Farm Capacity;
- Requesting an update on the waterline; and
- Climate change considerations.

ECCC provided the following technical review comments (April 25, 2024):

Clarifications about waste rock management at Discovery site;

⁶ S.C. 2002, c. 29.

⁵ S.C. 1999, c. 33.

⁷ R.S.C. 1985, c. F-14.



- Recommending Acid Rock Drainage (ARD) and Metal Leaching (ML) test prior to development of the WRSF;
- Clarification regarding water transport to Discovery site;
- Clarifications regarding assumptions in the Water Balance and Water Quality Model (WBWQM) and recommending revisions;
- Recommending updates to the Water Management Plan and the Freshet Management Plan;
- Clarifications regarding changes in the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan (AEMP) Design Plan and recommended revisions;
- Recommending updates to the Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan;
- Clarification regarding waste characteristics of the Saline Effluent Treatment Plant (SETP);
- Recommending updates to the Mine Waste Management Plan;
- Clarification regarding the number and locations of the incinerators on site;
- Climate change considerations;
- Clarifications regarding adverse effects of the project on species at risk and migratory birds;
- Recommending reassessment and updates to the Terrestrial Environment Management and Monitoring Plan (TEMMP);
- Requesting monitoring data to validate conclusions provided in the 2014 FEIS;
- Requesting revisions to the Adaptive Management Plan; and
- Requesting details on groundwater-surface water interactions during post-closure.

The following commitments were agreed upon by the Applicant, resulting from ECCC's comments and discussions during the TM.

- WLA-6 Agnico Eagle committed to include a pit specific study, in the Final Closure and Reclamation Plan, on how saline water is expected to stratify if the contingency option to deposit saline water into open pits is required;
- WLA-7 Agnico Eagle committed to update the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan Design Plan, 60 days after approval of the Amended Water Licence, to include Federal Environmental Quality Guidelines for cobalt, copper, strontium, and vanadium;



- WLA-8 Agnico Eagle committed to update the Water Management Plan, 60 days after approval of the Water Licence Amendment, to integrate details of pond dewatering; total suspended solids (TSS) treatment, predicted volumes, treatment capacity, and management of sludge/residue;
- WLA-9 Agnico Eagle committed to update the Freshet Management Plan, 60 days after approval of the Amended Water Licence, to include dewatered lakes and ponds in "areas of risk during freshet" and describe how water accumulating in all dewatered lakes and ponds will be managed during freshet;
- WLA-10 Agnico Eagle committed to update the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan, 60 days after approval of the Amended Water Licence, to include the two new peninsula lakes from Lake E3 (MEL-15), Lake G2 (MEL-16), or Lake H1 (MEL-17), plus Lake D7;
- WLA-11 Agnico Eagle committed to update the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan Design Plan, 60 days after approval of the Amended Water Licence, to include a comparison of observations and FEIS predictions in the past;
- WLA-12 Agnico Eagle committed to update the Water Management Plan, 60 days after approval of Water Licence Amendment, clarifying the list of currently built and unbuilt infrastructure (Pond P3 and Berm-P3);
- WLA-13 Agnico Eagle committed to provide estimates of sludge characteristics and management within the 60-day construction notice of the Saline Effluent Treatment Plant;
- WLA-14 Agnico Eagle committed to update the Mine Waste Management Plan before the Discovery Waste Rock Storage Facility becomes operational, to show overburden, bedrock, and PAG & NPAG waste rock;
- WLA-15 Agnico Eagle committed to update the Spill Contingency Plan and Emergency Response Plan by March 31, 2025 to address ECCC's concerns; and
- WLA-18 Agnico Eagle committed to meet with ECCC to discuss unresolved items prior to the public hearing regarding parameter concentration normal ranges in Meliadine Lake (ECCC #17) and closure criteria for surface water quality (ECCC #19).

ECCC was generally satisfied with the responses provided by Agnico Eagle during the TM/PHC, and looked forward to continuing discussions to resolve their outstanding concerns.



Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

DFO reviews applications to determine whether they will require an authorization under the *Fisheries Act* or the *Species at Risk Act*.

The following key issues were highlighted in DFO's initial comment submissions on the completeness of the Amendment Application, their technical review submissions and were discussed during the Technical Meeting (TM).

DFO provided the following comments and IRs during the Completeness Check (February 15, 2024):

- Recommending mitigation measures to maintain water levels in watershed A and B; and
- Requesting the Applicant submit a Fish Offsetting Plan.

DFO provided the following technical review comments (April 26, 2024):

- Clarifications regarding inconsistencies in the Amendment Application;
- Clarifications regarding flow rates during flooding of pits at post-closure; and
- Recommending updates to the Fish Offsetting Plan.

Agnico Eagle Reply

Agnico Eagle reaffirmed their commitment to providing the NWB with the specified information to address the concerns raised by the KivIA, CIRNA, ECCC and DFO during the technical review of the Amendment Application and discussed at the Technical Meeting. These commitments are summarized in <u>APPENDIX D</u>: <u>List of Commitments</u>.

4.0 Technical Meeting (TM)

The TM for the Amendment Application was conducted in-person in Rankin Inlet from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm CST on June 5, 2024. As is the Board's practice, the TM was an informal meeting and was chaired by Karén Kharatyan, the Board's Director of Technical Services. The meeting was attended by:

- the NWB's staff and legal counsel;
- the Applicant, which included representatives of Agnico Eagle, as well as the Applicant's consultants and legal counsel;
- the Interveners, NTI, KivIA, CIRNA, ECCC and DFO; and
- one member of the public (who attended remotely)



In keeping with the Board's normal practice, the Panel Members of the Board (Meliadine Panel, P15), the decision-makers for the Amendment Application, were not present at the TM or the subsequent Pre-hearing Conference (PHC), having delegated the conduct of these meetings to the Board's staff. The TM included the following:

- Discussion of the technical issues identified by Interveners and the NWB staff during their technical review of the Amendment Application;
- Examination of technical data, comment submissions and other materials submitted as part of the Amendment Application;
- Discussion, and where possible, resolution of technical matters or issues raised by Interveners, community members and the Applicant, particularly those matters that could affect the Board's determination on any PHC issues, prior to holding the PHC;
- Providing an opportunity for Agnico Eagle and participants to identify and confirm for the Board the issues and concerns that have been resolved and to discuss any unresolved or ongoing issues related to the Amendment Application;
- Identification of opportunities for streamlining the issues and process so as to eliminate existing or potential duplication or delay in the NWB's processing of the Amendment Application going forward; and
- Documenting any commitments made by the various parties during the TM, with the aim of carrying over the commitments to the PHC and Public Hearing stages of the NWB's consideration of the Amendment Application.

The TM participants were advised that, upon completion of the TM, the Board expected any outstanding issues in respect of the Amendment Application to be resolved, or if not resolved, that some form of agreement, including commitments by the parties, would be provided by the parties to enable the Amendment Application to proceed to the next step of the licensing process, the Public Hearing, notwithstanding any unresolved issues.

At the TM, the following general topics were discussed:

- The scope of the Amendment Application;
- Outstanding requests for additional information by the NWB and the parties; and
- The status of various updates and additions to management and monitoring plans.

Following these discussions, the NWB, circulated to all meeting participants, an electronic copy of the draft List of Issues in respect of the Amendment Application that the NWB expects to be discussed at the Public Hearing for the file. On the morning of June 6, 2024, a draft of the List of



Commitments made by the parties during the TM and prepared by Agnico Eagle, was also shared and discussed, and the Board asked for the parties to confirm whether they were satisfied with the commitment wording and to identify whether the commitments were sufficient to resolve any outstanding technical issues or not.

5.0 Community Session

On May 29, 2024, NWB staff called the local radio station in Rankin Inlet to inform community members about the upcoming Community Session. The NWB also posted a notice on Rankin Inlet's social media group to inform the public about the time and location of the Community Session. The Community Session took place in the Recreation Hall in Rankin Inlet from 7:00 to 9:30 pm CST on June 5, 2024. All the participants from the Technical Meeting were present for the Community Session. A total of 14 community members attended this session.

A brief presentation was made by Mohammad Ali Shaikh for the NWB, explaining the NWB's process for a type A Amendment Application, the scope of the Amendment Application, outlining the procedural history for the file and advising the community regarding the next steps in the NWB's processing of the Amendment Application. This was followed by presentations from Agnico Eagle, KivIA, CIRNA, ECCC and DFO. All parties provided a short explanation of their mandates and comments and resolutions discussed during the Application review process. After each presentation, community members were given opportunities to ask questions.

<u>Table 1</u> that follows provides a summary of the key questions and comments raised by the community members during the Community Session.

Table 1: Key Issues as Raised by Community Members during the Community Session

Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments				
Saline Water	What are the impacts of saline water going into Itivia Harbour?				
Water Licensing	I appreciate the Nunavut Water Board process, as it has been very good to hear the information from the presenters. With all the comments and questions and review of the Amendment Application by the Board and I Interveners, I am confident that the water quality is being closely monitored by Agnico Eagle, the regulators and the Kivalliq Inuit Association and I am in favour of the Board amending the Water Licence.				



Subject	Issues/Concerns/Comments				
Water Monitoring	Where does Agnico Eagle take the water samples from the nearby lakes				
	and rivers that are included in the water monitoring program? Can you				
	show us on a map, the locations where samples are taken?				
Water Quality	We are seeing more sick fish and more sick caribou (with yellow spots)?				
(effects on wildlife	We have noticed these effects since the mining started; are the impacts				
health)	on water quality from the mine having negative effects on wildlife				
	health?				
Water Quality	In the community, we are seeing brown water coming out of the				
	Meliadine Lake, where are the contaminants causing the discoloration				
	and other water impacts coming from?				
Water Quality	Is the freshwater coming out of Meliadine Lake safe to drink?				
Water Quality	It was mentioned that there were metals identified during the sampling				
	of water, what were those metals and were they coming from the mine?				

During the Community Session, the Agnico Eagle staff provided answers to the community members' questions and concerns. The KivIA responded to one of the community members' questions. Some community members voiced their support for the Amendment Application. Community Members did not identify any significant public concerns or issues with the Amendment Application that would prevent the NWB moving forward to a Public Hearing.

The questions, comments and concerns expressed by members of the public provided during the Community Session and general level of interest and engagement in relation to the water management issues associated with the Meliadine Gold mine were considered by the Meliadine Panel to support conducting an in-person Public Hearing in the community of Rankin Inlet, and also to have another in-person Community Session in the evening, to be held during the in-person Public Hearing.

6.0 Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC)

The Board commenced the PHC portion of the Agenda on the morning of June 6, 2024, at 9:00 am CST. Zoom and teleconference links were available for participants who chose to participate remotely. A total of 8 participants had joined the meeting online.

The PHC was chaired by Karén Kharatyan, the Board's Director of Technical Services, with the same parties as the TM. The purpose of the PHC was to discuss the various matters as set out in



Rule 14 of the *Rules of Practice and Procedure* (May 2005) (*Rules*) in preparation for the Public Hearing. Specifically, Rule 14 directs that the PHC address the following items:

- To set a timetable for the pre-Hearing exchange of information;
- To finalize the list of issues to be dealt with at the Public Hearing;
- To identify interested parties;
- To consider the desirability of amending the Amendment Application for the purposes of clarification;
- To finalize procedures to be followed in the Public Hearing; and
- To consider any other matters that may assist in the simplification and disposition of the Amendment Application or the conduct of the Public Hearing.

The PHC commenced with the review and refinement of both the List of Issues to be carried forward into the Public Hearing and the updated List of Commitments generated during the TM, in order to reflect the clarifications and subsequent agreement of the parties. The wording in APPENDIX D: List of Commitments of this Report reflects these discussions. For the convenience of the parties, where commitments made by the Applicant will result in the submission of additional or updated documentation, the Board has included a description of the timelines for submission of this information and the form of submission expected by the parties.

Similarly, the List of Issues (discussed in more detail under the subheading <u>List of Issues</u> below) was also reviewed and revised during the PHC to reflect the discussions of participants during the TM. At the start of the PHC, all parties and the Board's staff confirmed that there were no outstanding issues that would prevent the Amendment Application from progressing to the Public Hearing stage.

Timetable for Pre-Hearing Exchange of Information

It was noted at the beginning of this discussion that, as required by s. 55(2) of the *Nunavut Waters* and *Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 10 (NWNSRTA or Act), the NWB must give the public and parties a minimum of sixty (60) days notice in advance of a Public Hearing.

The Applicant, NTI, KivIA, CIRNA, ECCC, and DFO were polled regarding any outstanding information requirements that must be supplied in advance of a Public Hearing and indicated, that as long as the additional information outlined in <u>APPENDIX D</u>: <u>List of Commitments</u> is provided in accordance with the timelines specified in the list, the preparation and submission of additional information should not delay the potential Public Hearing for the Amendment Application.



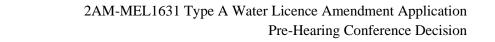
As the PHC participants did not identify any issues that would prevent the Board from proceeding to a Public Hearing for the Amendment Application, the Board's legal counsel outlined the following proposed timetable for the pre-Hearing exchange of information set out below. The Applicant and all participants were reminded, however, that the Board reserves the right to revisit the timing proposed if:

- parties are unable to meet the deadlines in their commitments;
- if the Board receives subsequent, reasonable requests from the parties for adjournments in response to additional information received;
- if public health or safety directions or orders are issued that impose limits on activities such as travel into Rankin Inlet and/or the hosting of public gatherings; or
- as may subsequently be considered necessary by the Board.

In establishing the following schedule, the Board considered the views of the parties, the Board's current commitments and logistical constraints associated with conducting an in-person Public Hearing in Rankin Inlet to identify that the most feasible timing to conduct the Public Hearing is sometime in the week of **September 9-13, 2024 (tentatively September 11-12, 2024)**. Unless modified as noted above, the Board requires the participants to observe the following timetable:

- On or before Friday, July 5, 2024 the NWB will issue Notice of the Public Hearing;
- On or before Thursday, July 18, 2024 any party requesting French translation of the Executive Summary materials, final written submissions of parties, reply submissions and/or presentation materials should make such requests to the Board in writing;
- On or before Thursday, July 25, 2024 the Interveners, members of the public or other interested parties must file any further and final written submissions in respect of the Amendment Application with the Board;
- On or before Thursday, August 15, 2024 the Applicant must file any further responses to the information filed in advance of the Public Hearing and must file their final written submissions with the Board; and
- On or before Thursday, August 29, 2024 all parties intending to present to the Board during the Public Hearing must file any presentation materials (e.g., PowerPoint Presentations, etc.) upon which they intend to rely at the Public Hearing.

NOTE: If the Interveners and/or the Applicant file additional written submissions, final statements and/or presentation materials as outlined above, they are also required to provide an Executive Summary of their written submissions in both English and Inuktitut and fully translated copies of their presentation materials or final summaries in English and Inuktitut at the same time as they file the full submission. All submissions will be posted on the NWB's ftp-site (ftp://ftp.nwb-oen.ca/) and in the public registry upon receipt.





Identification of Interested Parties

During the PHC, the following parties confirmed their participation in the future Public Hearing:

- Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA)
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA)
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) (indicated they may not provide written submissions or provide a presentation, but will participate as an observer during the Public Hearing and may ask/answer questions)

When asked at the PHC, parties expressed the view that the Board does not need to issue invitations to additional interested parties to participate in the Public Hearing.

Provision of Final Written Submissions from Interested Parties

Any additional information that the Applicant, Interveners or interested parties may wish the Board to consider during their review of the Amendment Application must be filed with the Board in advance of the Public Hearing and in accordance with the timelines outlined above under the heading Timetable for Pre-Hearing Exchange of Information.

List of Issues

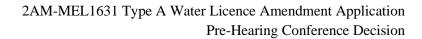
The intervening parties in attendance at the TM/PHC confirmed that none of the issues for discussion associated with the Amendment Application and the related information requirements should prevent the Board from proceeding with the Public Hearing.

As noted above, as part of the recap of the TM, the parties reviewed the following List of Issues that are expected to be addressed during the Public Hearing and agreed that, subject to adding issues following the review of information that may be exchanged in advance of the Public Hearing, the following topics should be addressed at the Public Hearing:

- o Changes to the scope of the type A Water Licence
 - Adding open pit mining at Pump, F Zone Wesmeg, and Discovery deposits and associated infrastructure, including waste rock storage facilities, ore stockpiling, tailings storage and contact water infrastructure, increasing of freshwater use, etc.
 - Increasing Itivia site's fuel tank farm capacity to store up to 80 million litres of diesel fuel.



- Water Use and Management
 - Increase in the approved water use from 742,000 to 1,100,296 m³/yr during the operations stage
 - Increase in the approved water use from 4,000,000 to 8,676,481 m³/year during the closure stage
 - Dewatering of Lakes and Ponds to support mining at Pump, F Zone, Wesmeg, and Discovery
 - Updates to Water Balance/Water Quality Modelling
- Wastewater Management and Treatment
 - Using of Lake B7 as Saline Pond 6 (SP6)
 - Limits on the volume of Effluent discharged into Meliadine Lake
- Waste Management
 - Increase in tailings storage capacity to 20.6 million cubic metres (M/m³)
 - Updated Waste Management Plan associated with proposed new infrastructure at Discovery site
- Closure and Reclamation Planning
 - Updates to Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan
 - Inclusion/exclusion of updated flow rates associated with pit refilling during closure
 - Associated updates to reclamation security requirements under the Water Licence
- Updates to existing management and monitoring plans
 - Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan (AEMP)
 - Water Management Plan
 - Freshet Management Plan
 - Waste Management Plan (Mine Waste Management Plan)
 - Spill Contingency Plan
 - Emergency Response Plan
 - Adaptive Management Plan
- Draft Licence Framework
- Water Usage Compensation Agreement (KivIA)





Changes to the Amendment Application for the Purposes of Clarification

No parties identified that changes to the current Amendment Application were necessary for the purposes of clarification, and the Public Hearing will consider the changes as requested in the Amendment Application provided by Agnico Eagle in January 2024.

Procedures for the Public Hearing

Parties were asked for their views with respect to the form of the Public Hearing (written, teleconference or in-person). The KivIA preferred an in-person Public Hearing, in Rankin Inlet, in the week of September 8 or September 15, 2024. CIRNA stated that they would be available for an in-person Public Hearing, in Rankin Inlet, in the week of September 8 or September 15, 2024, and deferred the final decision to the NWB. ECCC and DFO reiterated KivIA and CIRNA's position. Agnico Eagle stated that due to the limited number of outstanding technical issues and the extensive discussions about the Amendment Application that have already taken place, it was reasonable for the Public Hearing to be conducted in-person, in Rankin Inlet, as soon as possible following the completion of the TM/PHC, and requested the NWB conduct the Public Hearing in the week of August 12, 2024. Upon further discussion, Agnico Eagle indicated that if a Public Hearing on August 12 could not be scheduled, Agnico Eagle requested the Public Hearing be held in the week of September 8, as Agnico Eagle had scheduled commitments in the week of September 15 that could not be rescheduled.

The NWB understands the position of the Applicant that the in-person Public Hearing should be completed as early as possible, however, as discussed during the PHC, the NWB must also respect the seasonal activities of local people, including the timing of harvesting activities that are typically conducted in August, which are central to the preservation of the Inuit way of life and community life in general. Consequently, to the extent possible, the Board limits the conduct of public events during times when community members are likely to be out on the land or engaged in harvesting activities. For Rankin Inlet, parties expressed that the period from June through August should be avoided if possible.

On this basis, and recognizing the Board's schedule, the requirement to give at least 60 days notice of the Public Hearing and the logistical requirements to ensure adequate accommodations for Public Hearing participants, the Board has concluded that the week of September 9-13, 2024 is the most appropriate time for the in-person Public Hearing. Given the high level of public interest in this Amendment Application and recognizing the support of all parties for an in-person Public Hearing, the NWB's decision-making Panel for the file (Panel P15) has determined that it is most appropriate for the Board to hold an in-person Public Hearing to support decision-making for the



file. With respect to the location of the in-person Public Hearing, the parties were unanimous that Rankin Inlet should be the appropriate venue, as it is the most directly affected community.

On this basis, the Meliadine Panel decided, by Motion #2024-06-P15-04, that the in-person Public Hearing should be held in the community of Rankin Inlet sometime during the week of September 9-13, 2024. The NWB expects that NWB Board Members appointed as decision-makers for the Amendment Application (Meliadine Panel or P15 Panel), the Board's staff and representatives from the Applicant and the Interveners would be able to participate during the in-person Public Hearing in Rankin Inlet. However, as the Board recognizes that there may be travel and accommodation limits for some parties, the Board will also work to provide mechanisms for remote participation via audio/video links if possible. The Board will be working to confirm logistics, and will provide more specific details regarding the Board's approach to conducting the in-person Public Hearing when the formal Notice of Public Hearing is issued on **July 5, 2024**.

All parties should be advised, however, that this procedural direction, including the proposed timing and format of the Public Hearing may be modified by the Board in future as may be required to reflect changed circumstances such as:

- The failure of any participants to meet the timelines for the pre-Hearing exchange of documentation:
- Technological limits; and
- The receipt of the required Public Hearing funding by NWB from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs.

The parties have confirmed that they do not anticipate that they will require the Board to deviate from the Board's normal *Rules of Practice and Procedure* (May 2005) (*Rules*) during the conduct of the Public Hearing. As such, the Board directs all parties that the Public Hearing will be conducted in accordance with Parts III and IV of the Board's *Rules*.

Measures to Simplify the Disposition of the Amendment Application

No specific measures to simplify the disposition of the Amendment Application were identified at the PHC. However, as always, the Board encourages participants to make available visual representations such as maps, diagrams, pictures, video clips and models of facilities and infrastructure to support their discussions with the community during the Public Hearing.

Steps following the Public Hearing

Following the completion of the in-person Public Hearing and the closure of the Public Hearing Record, the Amendment Application would be remitted to the Meliadine Panel (P15) for decision-making. When the Panel has reached a decision, which is typically within thirty (30) to forty-five



(45) days of the close of the Public Hearing Record, the Board will issue its Record of Proceedings and Decision to the Minister of Northern Affairs. If the Panel recommends that the requested amendments be granted, a draft of the amended type A Water Licence would also be attached to the NWB's Decision for the Minister's consideration.

If you require additional information regarding this Amendment Application, the Board's specific direction or the Board's processes in general, please do not hesitate to contact the Board's Director of Technical Services, Karén Kharatyan, karén.kharatyan@nwb-oen.ca or the Board's Manager of Licensing, Richard Dwyer, at richard.dwyer@nwb-oen.ca for any other matters related to the Amendment Application.

Regards,
NUNAVUT WATER BOARD

Stephanie Autut Executive Director

SA/as/rqd

Attachments:

Appendix A: Technical Meeting, Community Session and Pre-Hearing Conference Agendas
Appendix B: List of Participants at the Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference

Appendix C: List of the Amendment Application Submissions

Appendix D: List of Commitments generated during the Technical Meeting/Pre-Hearing

Conference held on June 5-6, 2024



APPENDIX A: TM/Community Session/PHC Agendas

FINAL AGENDA

TECHNICAL MEETING

APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO WATER LICENCE NO: 2AM-MEL1631 (MELIADINE GOLD PROJECT)

TECHNICAL MEETING

Date: June 5, 2024

Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Teleconference links and call-in information:

+1 647 558 0588

+1 778 907 2071 +1 438 809 7799 +1 613 209 3054 +1 647 374 4685 +1 587 328 1099 +1 204 272 7920

https://pido-ca.zoom.us/j/85018332276

Meeting ID: 850 1833 2276

Location: Recreation Hall, Rankin Inlet

- 1. Introduction and registration
 - a. Overview of the Technical Meeting
 - b. Introduction of Participants
- 2. NWB Opening Remarks / Application to the Board (15 Minutes)
 - a. Objectives of the Technical Meeting
 - b. Overview of scope and procedural history of the Application
- 3. Technical Review of the Application
 - a. Presentation by the Applicant (Agnico Eagle) (up to 45 minutes, excluding time for questions and answers)
 - i. Questions from Parties, other conference call participants and the NWB regarding the Applicant's Presentation
 - b. Presentations by interested parties (up to 30 minutes, excluding time for questions and answers)
 - c. Formulation of outstanding issues



- d. Identification of the parties' commitments to resolve relevant technical issues, service of documents to parties (deadline, public registry, form)
- 4. Closing of Technical Meeting

Health breaks – 15 minutes



COMMUNITY SESSION

APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO WATER LICENCE NO: 2AM-MEL1631 (MELIADINE GOLD PROJECT)

Date: June 5, 2024 Time: 7:00 PM (CT)

Location: Recreation Hall, Rankin Inlet

Teleconference link and call-in information:

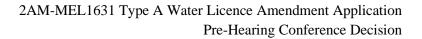
+1 647 558 0588 +1 778 907 2071 +1 438 809 7799 +1 613 209 3054 +1 647 374 4685 +1 587 328 1099 +1 204 272 7920

https://pido-ca.zoom.us/j/85018332276

Meeting ID: 850 1833 2276

- 1. Overview of NWB process by NWB (15 minutes)
- 2. Presentation of Application by the NWB (15 minutes)
- 3. Presentation of Application by Applicant (30 minutes)
- 4. Presentation/statements by Intervening Parties (15 minutes per party)
- 5. Questions and comments from community

Health breaks – 15 minutes





PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

Date: June 6, 2024

Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (CT)

Teleconference links and call-in information:

+1 647 558 0588 +1 778 907 2071 +1 613 209 3054

https://pido-ca.zoom.us/j/85018332276

Meeting ID: 850 1833 2276

Location: Recreation Hall, Rankin Inlet

- 1. Pre-Hearing Conference
 - a. Identify issues that may prevent the Application from proceeding to a Public Hearing
 - b. Discuss form, timing, and location of a potential Public Hearing for the Application
 - c. Establish timetable for the pre-hearing exchange of information including:
 - i. preparation and filing of additional documents by the parties (deadlines, form, public registry)
 - ii. document-translation requirements
 - iii. documentation to be included in the Public Hearing Record
 - d. Finalize list of issues to be addressed at the Public Hearing
 - e. Identify interested parties / parties that should be invited to participate in the Public Hearing
 - f. Identify any changes required to the Application for the purposes of clarification
 - g. Final procedures to be followed at the Public Hearing including:
 - i. requested modifications to the applicable NWB Rules of Practice and Procedure for Public Hearings (May 2005)
 - ii. language requirements at the Public Hearing
 - h. Consideration of any other matters that may aid in the simplification and disposition of the Application at the Public Hearing
- 2. Other issues
- 3. Closing of the meeting



APPENDIX B: List of Participants at the Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing <u>Conference</u>

Participant	Position	Company/ Organization	Representing
Stephanie Autut	Executive Director	NWB	NWB
Karén Kharatyan	Director Technical Services N		NWB
Mohammad Ali Shaikh	Technical Advisor	NWB	NWB
Richard Dwyer	Manager of Licensing	NWB	NWB
Ben Kogvik	Board Administration & Communications	NWB	NWB
Abid Jan	Technical Advisor	NWB	NWB
Nidhi Singh	Technical Advisor	NWB	NWB
Mary Rose Angoshadluk	Local Interpreter	Rankin Inlet	NWB
Teresa Meadows	Legal Counsel	Meadows Law	NWB
Christopher Coomber	Sound Technician	PIDO	NWB
Jamie Quesnel	Director, Permitting and Regulatory Affairs	Agnico Eagle	Agnico Eagle
Pujjuut Kusugak	Director Nunavut Affairs	Agnico Eagle	AEM
Luc Chouinard	Project Manager	Agnico Eagle	AEM
Manon Turmel	Permitting and Regulatory Affairs Superintendent Agnico Eagle		Agnico Eagle
Colleen Prather	Permitting Technical Advisor	Agnico Eagle	Agnico Eagle
Jennifer Range	Regulatory Specialist	Agnico Eagle	Agnico Eagle
Sara Savoie	Environmental Superintendent	Agnico Eagle	Agnico Eagle
Edward Malindzak	Permitting Specialist, Aquatics	Agnico Eagle	Agnico Eagle
Scott Jackson	Consultant, Senior Hydrologist	Lorax	Agnico Eagle
Christine Kowbel	Legal Counsel	Lawson Lundell	Agnico Eagle
Luiz Manzo	Director of Lands	KivIA	KivIA
Matthew McDougall	Aquatic Specialist	KivIA	KivIA
Alan Sexton	Geologist	KivIA	KivIA



Jonathan Katz	Legal Counsel	Taylor McCaffrey Lawyers	KivIA
Tiana Romeo (attended remotely)	Law student	Taylor McCaffrey Lawyers	KivIA
Jeff Hart	Acting Director of Resource Management	CIRNA	CIRNA
Andrew Keim	Manager – Water Resources	CIRNA	CIRNA
Tony Brown	Consultant	Arcadis	CIRNA
Gerd Wiatzka (attended remotely)	Consultant Arcadis		CIRNA
Russel Wykes	Acting Senior Environmental Assessment Officer		ECCC
Sarah Forte	Environmental Assessment Officer	ECCC	ECCC
Stephinie Mallon (attended remotely)	Environmental Assessment Officer	ECCC	ECCC
Christopher Shapka (attended remotely)	Biologist	DFO	DFO
Derek Donald (attended remotely)	Biologist	DFO	DFO
Ezra Greene	Acting Manager	NTI	NTI
Gail Wallace (attended remotely)	Senior Advisor	NTI	NTI
Dominique Nouvet (attended remotely)	Lawyer	NTI	NTI





Technical Meeting RANKIN INLET JUNE 5, 2024





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Meliadine Technical	Meeting	DAY (ONE

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APPENDIX C: List of Amendment Application Submissions

The following documents were included with the Application:

1. January 26, 2024:

- Meliadine WL Amendment-MainApplicationDocument
- Agnico Eagle Responses to Completness Check on Meliadine WL Amendment-AppA_StabilityAnalysesWRSF
- Meliadine WL Amendment-ApplicationForm
- Meliadine WL Amendment Cover Letter
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppA-SIG
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppB-NPC
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppC-Consultation Logs
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppD1-PFSWaterInfra
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppD2-StabilityAnalysesTSF
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppE1-GeotechInvest
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppE2-ThermalDiscoWRSF
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppE3-ThermalAssessment
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppE4-HydrogeologyExistingConditions
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppE5-Westbay2021GWProgram
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppE6-HydrgeologyOpsRpt
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppE7-HydrgeologyClosureRpt
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppG-Prior Engagement on MEL Infrastructure
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF01-AdaptiveMgmtPlan-v3_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF02-AmmoniaMgmtPlan-v5_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF03-AEMP-v3_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF04-ARD-ML Sampling and Testing Plan-v1_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF05-BorrowQuarriesMgmtPlan-v7_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF06-BulkFuelStorageFacilityMgmtPlan-v2_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF07-DustMgmtPlan-v7_NWB

- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF08-EnviroMgmtProtectionPlan-v10_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF09-HazardoursMtlMgmtPlan-v6_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF10-IncinerationMgmtPlan-v8_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF11-ItiviaBulkFuelStorageFacilityMgmtPlanv2b_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF12-ICRP 2024
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF13-LandfarmMgmtPlan-v5_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF14-LandfillWasteMgmtPlan-v9_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF15-MineWasteMgmtPlan-v11_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF16-OreStorageMgmtPlan-v6_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF17-QAQCPlan-v5_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF18-RiskMgmtEmergRespPlan-v5_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF19-RoadMgmtPlan-v9_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF20-SpillContingencyPlan-v14b_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF21-WaterMgmtPlan-v14_NWB
- Meliadine WL Amendment_AppF22-FishOffsettingPlan_NWB

2. February 12, 2024

Meliadine WL Amendment Application Errata

3. March 01, 2024

- Agnico Eagle Responses to Completness Check on Meliadine WL Amendment-AppC_ThermalModellingRpts
- Agnico Eagle Responses to Completness Check on Meliadine WL Amendment
- Agnico Eagle Responses to Completness Check on Meliadine WL Amendment-AppB_WBWQM Figures

4. March 08, 2024

• Agnico Eagle Response to IR Deadline Extension March 13, 2024

5. March 13, 2024

• Stability Evaluation of the WRSFs of Meliadine Water Licence Amendment Technical Memo

6. March 21, 2024

 Agnico Eagle 2nd Round Responses to Completeness Check on Meliadine WL Amendment

7. May 10, 2024

- Agnico Eagle's Response to Technical Comments on the Meliadine Water Licence Amendment Application 2AM-MEL1631
- Appendix A: Adaptive Management Plan Version 3.1_NWB
- Appendix B: Predicted Groundwater-Surface Water Interaction, Lake B7
- Appendix C: Water Quality Predictions (Tables and Figures)
- Appendix D: Geochemical Characterization and Source Term Report
- Appendix E: Master List of Waterbodies and Watercourses Listed Under Section 35 and Section 36

8. May 24, 2024

- Agnico Eagle Mines list of attendees
- Technical Meeting Presentation
- Community Session Presentation



APPENDIX D: List of Commitments generated during the Technical Meeting/Pre-Hearing Conference held on June 5-6, 2024

No.	Party Responsible for Commitment	Party(s) who raised (Item #)	Issue - TM Commitment	Timeline for Submission	Form of Submission
1	Agnico Eagle	KivIA (TC-01) Meliadine Discharge Quality and Quantity	The Discharge of Effluent from the Final Discharge Point at Monitoring Program Station MEL-14 to Meliadine Lake shall not exceed the total authorized volume of two million six hundred thousand (2,600,000 cubic metres per year during the Operations of the Meliadine Gold mine, or as otherwise approved by the Board in writing.	NA	To be added to the Licence under Part F
2	Agnico Eagle	KivIA (TC-01) Meliadine Discharge Quality and Quantity	Agnico Eagle confirms through its discussion and agreement with the KivIA that underground saline groundwater will continue to be managed separately from surface contact water, and under no circumstances be discharged to Meliadine Lake. Underground saline groundwater is defined as water from groundwater inflows to the underground operation.	Throughout Mine Operations	NA
3	Agnico Eagle	KivIA (TC-04) Lake B7 Remediation	Agnico Eagle commits to monitor Lake B7 during operations to assess the potential requirement to remediate Lake B7 at closure. Based on monitoring during operations of Lake B7 and in review of predictions, this data will support the development of an appropriate path forward with respect to closure of Lake B7. This will enable the development of a comprehensive Final Closure and Reclamation Plan, with assumptions that have been validated by site data.	Throughout Mine Operations	NA

No.	Party Responsible for Commitment	Party(s) who raised (Item #)	Issue - TM Commitment	Timeline for Submission	Form of Submission
4	Agnico Eagle	KivIA	Update the Adaptive Management Plan to integrate the prioritized discharge strategy.	Prior to Public Hearing	Updated Plan document
5	Agnico Eagle	KivIA (TC-03) ECCC (TC-15) AEMP Reference Lakes	Agnico Eagle will complete a reference lake monitoring program that includes Peter Lake and an additional reference lake, as well as existing reference stations at Inuggugayualik Lake and Pipedream Lake located near the Meadowbank Mine Site. This three-year study will be initiated in 2025 and will be aligned with the sample collection and analysis approach of the AEMP, and results will be included as an annex to the AEMP annual report. At the end of this three-year period, based on the results of the study, Agnico Eagle will consider if this reference lake program should be integrated into the AEMP or continued independently. The same sampling methodology and analytical techniques will be followed at all lakes included in the monitoring program.	Three-year study initiation in 2025	2025, 2026, 2027 Annual Reports
6	Agnico Eagle	ECCC (TC-05) Saline water stratified in pits at closure	As per the Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan the base case is to move the saline water to Itivia Harbour through the waterlines and any residual water can be pumped underground. Should the contingency option to deposit saline water into open pits be required in the Final Closure and Reclamation Plan, Agnico Eagle will include a pit specific study on how saline water is expected to stratify.	Final Closure and Reclamation Plan	Updated Plan document
7	Agnico Eagle	ECCC (TC-08) Water quality screening criteria for parameters without CCME guidelines	Update the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan Design Plan to include Federal Environmental Quality Guidelines for cobalt, copper, strontium, and vanadium.	60 days following approval of amended Water Licence	Updated Plan document

No.	Party Responsible for Commitment	Party(s) who raised (Item #)	Issue - TM Commitment	Timeline for Submission	Form of Submission
8	Agnico Eagle	ECCC (TC-12a) Dewatering Lakes and Ponds	Update the Water Management Plan to integrate details of pond dewatering; total suspended solids (TSS) treatment for water from the lower 50% of ponds and lakes to be dewatered, predicted volumes, treatment capacity, and management of sludge/residue.	60 days following approval of amended Water Licence	Updated Plan document
9	Agnico Eagle	ECCC (TC-12b,c) Dewatering Lakes and Ponds	Update the Freshet Management Plan to describe how water accumulating in all dewatered lakes and ponds will be managed during freshet including predicted water quality and to include dewatered lakes and ponds in "areas of risk during freshet".	60 days following approval of amended Water Licence	Updated Plan document
10	Agnico Eagle	ECCC (TC-13) AEMP monitoring of peninsular lakes	Update the AEMP to include the two new peninsula lakes from Lake E3 (MEL-15), Lake G2 (MEL-16), or Lake H1 (MEL-17), plus Lake D7.	60 days following approval of amended to Water Licence	Updated Plan document
11	Agnico Eagle	ECCC (TC-18) Comparison between observations and FEIS predictions	Continue the comparison of observations and FEIS predictions and update the AEMP Design Plan accordingly.	60 days following approval of amended Water Licence	Updated Plan document
12	Agnico Eagle	ECCC (TC-20) Inconsistent water management systems description	Update the Water Management Plan (Section 2.1) clarifying the list of currently built and unbuilt infrastructure (Pond P3 and Berm-P3).	60 days following approval of amended Water Licence	Updated Plan document

No.	Party Responsible for Commitment	Party(s) who raised (Item #)	Issue - TM Commitment	Timeline for Submission	Form of Submission
13	Agnico Eagle	ECCC (TC-21) Saline effluent treatment plant wastes	Provide estimates of sludge characteristics and management for the Saline Effluent Treatment Plant and update the Water Management Plan accordingly in the subsequent Annual Report	60 days prior to construction	Updated Plan document
14	Agnico Eagle	ECCC (TC-22) Discovery Waste rock facility	Update the Mine Waste Management Plan before the Discovery Waste Rock Storage Facility becomes operational, to show overburden, bedrock, and PAG & NPAG waste rock.	Prior to operation of Discovery WRSF	Updated Plan document
15	Agnico Eagle	ECCC (TC-25) Response procedure guides	Update the Spill Contingency Plan and Emergency Response Plan to include all new amendments to the Licence, if approved, Assign each hazardous material listed in Table 3-1 of the SCP to a specific guide in Appendices A to G of the same document, In response procedures, identify chemical incompatibilities that could reasonably occur during operations or spill cleanup.	Prior to March 31, 2025	Updates Plans
16	Agnico Eagle	CIRNA (TC-3) Adaptive Management Plan	Meet with CIRNAC to discuss unresolved items regarding the Adaptive Management Plan prior to the public hearing.	Prior to Public Hearing	NA

No.	Party Responsible for Commitment	Party(s) who raised (Item #)	Issue - TM Commitment	Timeline for Submission	Form of Submission
17	Agnico Eagle	KivIA Water Management	1. The Proponent, KivIA, and CIRNAC shall meet in person annually to hold a technical meeting (where practicable) to: • provide updates and advice in connection with Meliadine Lake, and management of contact and saline water; • to review current and forecasted conditions in receiving environments updated saline and contact water forecasts, and other impacts project activities may have on the aquatic environment; and • to collaborate on scheduling, information and materials required for the Community Open House. This preparation meeting shall be held annually after the Proponent has submitted the NWB Annual Report to the Board, before discharge at Itivia has begun for the season. Minutes for this meeting shall be shared by the Proponent with KiviA and CIRNAC. Prior to the first annual technical meeting, and as an outcome of the NWB licensing process, the Proponent shall update the Adaptive Management Plan to include a prioritized discharge strategy. 2. As an outcome of the technical meeting the parties shall upon mutual agreement hold a Community Open House annually by the Proponent, Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA), Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), in Rankin Inlet to provide a plain language and accessible opportunity for interested community members to receive and share information about waters that may be impacted by Meliadine Mine operations. Agenda items shall include: • Opportunity for local community members to share information with the Proponent, KivIA and CIRNAC about traditional and current uses of Meliadine Lake, and traditional and current conditions from the perspective of IQ;	After submission of Annual Report (every year) and before discharge (of saline effluent) to Itivia Harbour	Appendix to Annual Report

			 Opportunity for community members to ask questions and provide advice regarding water matters to the Proponent, KivIA and CIRNAC A plain language overview of the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Annual Report results by the Proponent; Updates from the Proponent, KivIA and CIRNAC on actions taken over the previous year to address any community concerns or advice regarding water. The Proponent, KIA and CIRNAC shall provide visual aids appropriate for the community in order to support better sharing of information. 		
			Minutes of these meetings along with an overview of information shared and how information from the Community Open House was considered and incorporated		
			by the Proponent into the Project's impact management, mitigation, and monitoring measures shall be provided to the NWB on an annual basis in the		
			Proponent's Annual Report.		
18	Agnico Eagle	ECCC (TC-17, 19) Parameter concentration normal ranges in Meliadine Lake, Closure	Meet with ECCC to discuss unresolved items regarding parameter concentration normal ranges in Meliadine Lake and closure criteria for surface water quality (Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan).	Prior to Public Hearing	Updated Plan Document
		criteria for surface water quality			