

NTI Presentation $\mathcal{D}^a \mathcal{L} \Delta^b d^c \triangleright \sigma^b \dot{b}^a \mathcal{L}$

For Nunavut Water Board's Public Hearing on Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd's Application to Amend its Type A Water Licence for Meliadine Mine

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September 11, 2024, Rankin Inlet
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Role of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) ᐱᑕᓂᐳᖅᐸᖃᖅᓂᐳ ᓄᓇᓴᑐᖅ ᐳᓗᓂᐳᖅ ᐱᑦᒥᐳᖅ (ᐳᓗᓂᐳᖅ)

- NTI represents the Inuit of Nunavut for the purpose of ensuring that Inuit rights are fully respected, including:
 - Aboriginal rights such as the duty to consult under s. 35 of Canadian constitution; and
 - treaty rights, meaning Nunavut Agreement rights and obligations.
- NTI's role extends to ensuring that the processes of the Institutions of Public Government are in keeping with the Nunavut Agreement, the *Nunavut Waters and Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and uphold Inuit participation and consultation requirements.
- In this review process, NTI supports the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA), the Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB), the Hunter and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) and communities generally in addressing issues that are of concern to all Inuit in Nunavut including the promotion of Inuit culture and the safeguarding of Nunavut's wildlife, environment, culture, lands and economy.

NTI Comments on CIRNA, DFO and ECCC Submissions

- The outstanding technical comments raised by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) as well as the comments on security by Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) all relate to environmental protection and, by extension, to the long-term ability of Inuit to meaningfully harvest and enjoy the land and waters affected by the Meliadine Mine.
- NTI agrees with CIRNA's proposal to update the NWB on the issue of security before and at the public hearing. CIRNA, KivIA and AEM should all provide this update.

NTI Comments on CIRNA, DFO and ECCC Submissions

1. Draft Water Licence Part E section 2

NTI shares DFO and ECCC's concerns with AEM's proposal to more than double the authorized volume of water that AEM may take from Meliadine Lake to flood the pits upon closure of Meliadine Mine, from 4 to 8.7 million cubic metres.

An authorized volume should be based on reliable predictions about what amount of water is needed to reflood the pits and how much volume can be withdrawn without jeopardizing the quality of Meliadine Lake's aquatic environment.

NTI recommends that planning for this aspect of the Meliadine Mine's closure happen as soon as possible and in time for AEM to adjust its operations if it turns out that the volume of water needed would compromise the aquatic environment in Meliadine Lake. It would be unacceptable to Inuit to discover that the plan to draw water from Meliadine Lake jeopardizes the lake's health and that there is no sound alternative to complete the closure of the Mine.

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