

NUNAVUT WATER BOARD

WATER LICENCE NO: 2AM-MEL1631

REASONS FOR DECISION INCLUDING RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



NUNAVUT WATER BOARD

In the Matter of:

Applicant: Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited

Subject: Application for Type "A" Water Licence for Water Use

and the Deposit of Waste

Date: April 15, 2016

<u>Precedence:</u> Where there is any inconsistency or conflict between

the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act (NWNSRTA), the Agreement prevails to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict. Where there is any inconsistency or conflict between the NWNSRTA and any other act of Parliament, except the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act, the NWNSRTA prevails to the

extent of the inconsistency or conflict.



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Applicant: Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited

Address: Suite 400, 145 King Street East

Toronto, ON M5C 2Y7

Purpose: Application for Type "A" Water

Licence for Water Use and the

Deposit of Waste

Application Received on:

May 20, 2015

Application Stéphane Robert

Received from: Manager Regulatory Affairs Nunavut

Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited –

Meliadine

Address: 10200, Route de Preissac

Rouyn-Noranda, QB J0Y 1C0

Date of Public

Hearing:

February 10 and 11, 2016

Public Hearing Record Closed:

February 19, 2016



ATTENDEES:

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Representatives:

Nunavut Water **Board Panel**

Members (Panel P15

Meliadine):

Vice Chairperson

Panel Chair

Member

Member

C. Adjun

L. Toomasie

M. Nartok

Nunavut Water **Board Staff:**

Executive Director

S. Autut

Director Technical Services Board Secretary/Interpreter

Senior Technical Advisor/Acting

Manager of Licencing

Licensing Administrator

Legal Counsel

(Shores Jardine LLP)

D. Hohnstein

B. Kogvik

K. Kharatyan

R. Ikkutisluk

C. Kieu

Interpreters:

B. Kogvik, Nunavut Water Board

M.R. Angoshadluk

Dicta Court Reporting, Inc.

Inuktitut

Inuktitut

J. Macdonald, CSR (A)

Sound Technician

Court Reporter:

PIDO Productions

R. Dempster

Applicant:

Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited Manager of Regulatory Affairs

S. Robert

Environmental Superintendent

Environmental Coordinator, Meliadine Project

General Manager, Meliadine Project

J. Pratt

J. Quesnel

M. Giumont



C. Kowbel Legal Counsel (Lawson Lundell, LLP) Tetra Tech EBA Inc. N. Goldup Golder Associates Ltd. L. Young C. Pratner D. Charley **Interveners:** Kivalliq Inuit Director of Lands L. Manzo Association: Representatives C. Barsall Legal Counsel M. Sammutok K. Gilson Legal Counsel (Duboff Edwards Haight & Schachter, Law Corporation) Indigenous and Director, Resource Management K. Costello Northern Affairs Regional Coordinator, Water I. Parsons Canada Resources **INAC Consultant** Resource Manager Engineering C. Gravelle Design and Construction ARCADIS Canada Inc. (Attendance Via Telephone): M. Pinto Environment and **Environmental Assessment** Climate Change Coordinator Canada: A. Wilson Water Quality Experts Support **Environmental Effects Monitoring** L. Wilson Department of Legal Counsel to Federal Intervenors T. Carroll Justice

Hamlet Foreman

Representative

Community

Representatives

from the Hamlet

J. Kaludjak

J. Merritt



of Rankin Inlet

Community **HTO Representative** J. Seeteenak

Representatives

Representatives Elder Representative E. Elytook

from Baker Lake:

Community Representative H. Aggark

Representatives **HTO Representative** from Chesterfield

Inlet:

Youth Representative R. Aggark

> Elder Representative P. Kadjuk

Written Record of Available from the Board's public

Submissions: registry:

ftp://ftp.nwb-

oen.ca/1%20PRUC%20PUBLIC%20REGISTRY/2%20MINING%20MILLIN

T. Amauyak

G/2A/2AM%20-%20Mining/2AM-MEL----

%20Agnico/2%20ADMIN/3%20SUBMISSIONS/

Hearing Record (including Hearing Transcript):

ftp://ftp.nwb-

oen.ca/1%20PRUC%20PUBLIC%20REGISTRY/2%20MINING%20MILLIN

G/2A/2AM%20-%20Mining/2AM-MEL----

%20Agnico/2%20ADMIN/4%20HEARINGS/2%20HEARING/



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ABBREVIATIONS

TM

Short Form	Full Name
INAC	Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
AEM	Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited
DIO	Designated Inuit Organization
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
GN	Government of Nunavut
KIA	Kivalliq Inuit Association
NIRB	Nunavut Impact Review Board
NLCA	Nunavut Land Claims Agreement
NPC	Nunavut Planning Commission
NWNSRTA	Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act
NWB	Nunavut Water Board
NWR	Nunavut Waters Regulations
PHC	Pre-Hearing Conference
PH	Public Hearing
RIO	Regional Inuit Association

Technical Meeting



REASONS FOR DECISION

This decision is in relation to an application before the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board), filed by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited (the Applicant or Proponent or AEM) for a Type "A" Water Licence seeking authorization for the use of water and deposit of waste associated with a new Mining undertaking (the Application) for the Meliadine Gold Project (the Project). The Application requests the grant of a licence for a term of 15 years to develop Phase 1 of the Project using a combination of open-pit and underground mining of the Tiriganiaq gold deposit. The Application was received by the NWB on May 20, 2015. The Meliadine Gold Mine will be located approximately 25 kilometres (km) north of Rankin Inlet, and 80 km southwest of Chesterfield Inlet, within the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut.

The Nunavut Planning Commission found the Meliadine Gold Project Proposal to be in conformity with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan on June 8, 2011. On February 26, 2015, following a review of the potential ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed Project, the Meliadine Gold Project Proposal was authorized to proceed to the licensing stage, subject to the terms and conditions of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's Project Certificate [No. 006].

The NWB subsequently received the Application for the Type "A" Water Licence in May 2015. Key steps in processing the Application included conducting a completeness check, technical review, a technical meeting and pre-hearing conference held in person in the nearest community, Rankin Inlet, Nunavut on October 14 and 15, 2015, which included a community session on the evening of October 14, 2015. The in-person Public Hearing for the file was held on February 10 and 11, 2016, in Rankin Inlet. As part of the Public Hearing, a Community Session was hosted by the NWB on the evening of February 10, 2016, with residents of Rankin Inlet and designated Community Representatives from Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet and Baker Lake in attendance.¹

Before the conclusion of the Public Hearing the Panel directed to keep the Hearing Record open in order to allow the KIA, AEM, and INAC to file additional written materials solely on the issues of water compensation and a security management agreement. Following the Board's receipt and review of the additional submissions, the Panel issued its decision to close the Public Hearing Record for the Application on February 23, 2016 and remitted the file to the Panel for decision-making.

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¹ For a complete list of attendees at the Public Hearing and Community Session, see APPENDIX E – Sign-in Sheets – List of Participants in the Public Hearing.



On the basis of the information provided with the Application by AEM, technical review of the Application by the Board, interveners and the public, commitments and responses to information requests from the parties during the technical review of the Application, comment submissions received throughout the Board's consideration of the Application, the final written submissions filed with the Board in advance of and following the Public Hearing and the information provided during the Public Hearing and Community Session, the three-member panel of the Board, Panel (P15 or the Meliadine Panel), duly appointed by the Board to consider the Application has, on April 01, 2016 decided the following, by way of Motions #2016-01-P15-05 and #2016-01-P15-06:

- To grant AEM's request for Water Licence No. 2AM-MEL1631 in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in this Decision and in the attached Licence No.: 2AM-MEL1631 (the Licence);
- Specific terms and conditions of note in the Licence include the following:
 - o the term will be 15 years, expiring on April 15, 2031;
 - the security required to be posted under the Licence reflects the submissions of the parties that security in the global amount of \$49,555,000 is required to reclaim the undertaking, but that as set out in the Meliadine Security Management Agreement only 50% of this amount or \$24,777,500 will be held under the Licence, with the remaining 50% to be held under the land lease to be issued by the Kivalliq Inuit Association;
 - o the security required to be held under the Licence may be reviewed by the Board (in the form of an amendment) if the Meliadine Security Management Agreement is terminated, when there is a change in the phase of the undertaking from construction to commercial operation to abandonment and reclamation or upon a material change to the Project that may have a material effect on the amount of security that should be held under the Licence,
 - the volume of water AEM is authorized to use is sixty two thousand (62,000) cubic meters per year during construction and three hundred and eighteen thousand (318,000) cubic meters per year during operations of the Project. In addition, the total authorized volume of Waters for re-flooding of pits, and any remaining operations shall not exceed four million (4,000,000) cubic metres per year during closure of the Project, and
 - the monitoring requirements under the Licence are as set out in Part I and Schedule I. These include the regulatory monitoring requirements with respect to discharges directly to the receiving environment as well as general aquatics monitoring and verification monitoring requirements for reporting purposes. Part D also includes the specific information on effluent quality limits not to be exceeded during the discharge to Meliadine Lake and to the land, where appropriate.



<u>SECTION I</u> <u>FILE BACKGROUND AND REGULATORY HISTORY</u>

The Application

The Application being considered by the Board and that is the subject of these Reasons for Decision was filed with the Board by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited (the Applicant or Proponent or AEM) on May 15, 2015 for a new Type "A" Water Licence (the Licence), which would authorize the use of water and deposit of waste associated with a Mining Undertaking (as defined under the Nunavut Waters Regulations²) at the Meliadine Gold Project (the Project). For the purpose of these Reasons for Decision, documents referred to from the public record in relation to the Type "A" Water Licence Application shall be referred to as "the Application".

Pursuant to the requirements of Articles 11 and 13 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*³ (NWNSRTA), the proposal for the Project was found to be in conformity with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP) by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) on June 8, 2011. In addition, following review of the Meliadine Gold Project by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) under Article 12 of the NLCA and consideration by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (as the Department was then, since renamed to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada) the Project was authorized to proceed to the licensing stage, subject to the terms and conditions of NIRB Project Certificate [No. 006], which was issued by the NIRB on February 26, 2015.

The Application for the Project consists primarily of the documents provided under <u>APPENDIX</u> <u>D – List of Submissions and Correspondence</u>, which may be summarized to include the following key information:

- Main Application Document;
- Information on the proposed use of water, disposal of waste, and associated activities for the mining and milling undertaking, including information related to planning and design, construction, operation, and reclamation phases of the Project; and
- Information on the regulatory requirements, environmental setting, project description, water management, supporting management plans and summary information.

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² SOR/2013-69.

³ S.C. 2002, c. 10



All documentation associated with the NWB's review of the Application, including the supporting documents referenced above is available on the NWB's FTP site and can be accessed using the following link:

ftp://ftp.nwb-

oen.ca/1%20PRUC%20PUBLIC%20REGISTRY/2%20MINING%20MILLING/2A/2AM %20-%20Mining/2AM-MEL----%20Agnico/1%20APPLICATION/2015%20New/

The Project

The Project is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) north of Rankin Inlet, and 80 km southwest of Chesterfield Inlet, within the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut. Situated on the western shore of Hudson Bay, the proposed 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 lands. The Project is located within the Meliadine Lake sub-watershed, within the Wilson Watershed boundaries⁴.

The Meliadine property is situated geologically within the Meliadine greenstone belt, in the Hearne sub-province of the Churchill Province. Rocks of the Meliadine belt are part of the Rankin Inlet Group. The Meliadine trend is defined by northwest trending stratigraphy and a regional structure known as the Pyke Break or Fault. The gold mineralization at Meliadine is found in quartz-vein stock works, laminated veins and sulphidized iron formation in complexly folded and sheared iron formation rocks, sedimentary rocks, and volcanic rocks in or near certain volcanic-sedimentary contacts.

The Meliadine gold property is a group of mineral leases, claims, and concessions—held solely by AEM—that were staked and grandfathered under the Canadian Mining Regulations before the NLCA. The Project is composed of five known deposits: Tiriganiaq, F Zone, Pump, Wesmeg, and Discovery. AEM is proposing to develop these deposits in a phased approach and to apply for subsequent approvals once the deposits are better defined through ongoing exploration activities.

Successive exploration programs by Asamera, Rio Algom Ltd., and Comaplex Minerals Corp. (Comaplex) from 1990 to 1994 identified gold mineralization along the 80-kilometre-long east-west-trending Pyke Fault, with the first holes drilled into the Tiriganiaq, F Zone, and Pump deposits by Comaplex in 1993 and 1994. From 1995 to 2000, substantial exploration by WMC International Ltd. (WMC), through an option on the western half of the Meliadine property,

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⁴ Nunavut Waters Regulations SOR/2013-69.



significantly expanded the Tiriganiaq deposit, led to the discovery of the Wolf deposit, and expanded the F Zone and Pump deposits. Work by Comaplex in 1996 and 1997 concentrated on the Discovery deposit on the eastern half of the property, known as Meliadine East.

In the ensuing years, and until late 2003, Comaplex and its partners continued exploration on Meliadine East, while little field work was completed by WMC on Meliadine West. In late 2003, Comaplex acquired WMC's interest in the Meliadine West property. From 2004 onward, Comaplex devoted the majority of its efforts to outlining new, higher-grade gold resources in the deeper parts of the Tiriganiaq deposit, and to reconnaissance work on outlying targets. Sporadic exploration was conducted on Meliadine East.

In 2007 and 2008, Comaplex conducted an underground exploration and bulk sample program on the Tiriganiaq deposit. In early 2009, Comaplex completed a preliminary assessment for the Meliadine property, using independent mining consultant Micon International Ltd. This assessment indicated that the property had the potential to support a mining operation. On the basis of this information, Comaplex elected to advance the project to the feasibility level, and initiated the regulatory process to permit a mining operation on the property.

On July 6, 2010, AEM completed its purchase of Comaplex, making it a wholly owned subsidiary. The first drilling was done on the property's Wesmeg deposit. In the following years AEM continued to pursue the development of a Meliadine Gold mine.

In March 1999, the first Type "B" Water Licence was issued by the NWB to WMC for the exploration and associated activities at Meliadine West Gold project. There are four licences currently issued for the Project to AEM covering exploration and advanced exploration, all-weather access road, and pre-development activities. The current licences are:

- **Licence No.2BE-MEP1318:** for the use of water and disposal of waste during camp operations and activities related to exploration that include prospecting, geological mapping, geophysical surveys, diamond drilling and trenching at the Meliadine East Project (299 m³/day water use).
- **Licence No.2BB-MEL1424:** for the use of water and disposal of waste during camp operations and activities related to Mining that include exploration, drilling on land and on ice, trenching and bulk sampling at the Meliadine West Gold Project (299 m³/day water use);
- **Licence No.2BW-MEL1525:** for the use of water and disposal of waste during water-crossings and road construction and/or operation activities at the Phase 1 Meliadine All-Weather Access Road Project (200 m³/day water use); and



Licence No.8BC-MEL1516: for the Meliadine Gold Site Preparation Project, including activities at the Meliadine Gold Mine Site, the All-Weather Access Road and in the Itivia Site Rankin Inlet Area (no direct water use under this licence).

Project Overview

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (AEM) is the sole owner of the Meliadine Gold Project. The gold deposits are situated on lease claims under the Canada Mining Regulations that were staked prior to the NLCA. The claim block covers 52,173 hectares and is approximately 80 km along the Meliadine greenstone belt.

The proposed mine production rate will be around 3,000 tonnes per day (tpd) from underground in Years 1 to 3, and 5,000 tpd from underground and then open pit in Years 4 through 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. 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.

The mill site will be located immediately east of the Tiriganiaq deposit. The Project's total area of disturbance will be approximately 453 hectares.

AEM is proposing to develop only the Tiriganiaq gold deposit using traditional open-pit mining method and underground mining as the initial phase or Phase 1. AEM proposes that Phase 2 will look to develop F Zone, Pump, Wesmeg, and Discovery. In other words, AEM's goal is to potentially continue operation after Phase 1 by seeking future licensing approval for mining and milling of the other deposits using the infrastructure that would be in place if the Application that is the subject to this decision is approved.

Procedural History of this Application

The following listing summarizes key steps in the procedural history of the NWB's processing of this Application:

■ May 20, 2015

o The Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) received a water licence application (Application) for a Type "A" Water Licence and supporting documentation from Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited (the Applicant or Proponent or AEM) for the proposed Meliadine Gold Project. This Application and associated documents

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replaced the initial draft water licence application package for the Meliadine Gold Project submitted to the NWB in 2010/2011 as part of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's assessment of the Meliadine Gold Project.

■ June 11, 2015

o The NWB acknowledged receipt of the Application and asked interested persons to review the scope and completeness of information provided, as well as to identify the deficiencies. These were to be submitted to the NWB by July 11, 2015, extended to July 21, 2015 as per request from Kivalliq Inuit Association.

• July 13-21, 2015

O The NWB was in receipt of comments on the completeness of the Application from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (now Indigenous and Northern Affairs or INAC), Environment Canada (now Environment and Climate Change Canada or ECCC), and Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA). The Board did not receive any indication that the application should not proceed through the regulatory process.

■ July 24, 2015

o AEM provided responses to completeness review comments made by Interveners.

August 27, 2015

O The Board gave notice of the Application in accordance with section 55(1) of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, inviting Interveners and other interested persons to provide the Board with their comments on or before September 28, 2015, advising the parties of the consequences of failing to identify issues of water user compensation to the Board in accordance with the comment timeline and advising the parties to prepare for a Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference to be hosted by the Board staff in Rankin Inlet tentatively the week of October 12th, 2015.

• September 4, 2015

o The Board received a 7 day extension request to the deadline for technical review submissions from INAC, and an extension was granted until October 5, 2015.

• October 5, 2015

• The NWB was in receipt of technical review submissions from INAC, ECCC, and the KIA.

■ September 28 and October 6, 2015



o The Board confirmed the dates of Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference to be October 14, 15, 2015, and provided parties with a proposed Agenda. Interested parties were asked to provide comments on the proposed Agenda by October 9, 2015.

• October 5-13, 2015

o The Board received technical review comments concerning the Application in preparation for the Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference from INAC, ECCC, and the KIA. The Board also received AEM preliminary responses to the technical review comments.

• October 14-15, 2015

o The Board hosted the Technical Meeting, Community Session and Pre-hearing Conference in Rankin Inlet.

• *November 10, 2015*

o The NWB issued the Pre-Hearing Conference Decision for the Meliadine Gold Project, which sets the dates for the Public Hearing in respect of this Application as February 10, 11, 2016, in Rankin Inlet. The Pre-Hearing Decision Report contained a list of all outstanding commitments and applicable dates attached to the Report as Appendix D.

• November 16, 2015

The Board issued formal notice of the Public Hearing to be held on February 10,
 11, 2016 in Rankin Inlet.

• November 27, 2015

o The Board received written submission from the Department of Fishers and Oceans Canada (DFO), indicating that the Department has determined that no *Fisheries Act* Authorization will be required for Phase 1 of the Meliadine Project. Therefore, DFO is unlikely to attend the NWB Public Hearing in February 2016.

■ *December 17–24, 2015*

o The Board received final written technical review comments in respect of the Application in preparation for the Public Hearing from INAC, ECCC, and the KIA.

December 18, 2015 – January 26, 2016

o The Board received notification of AEM's written responses to the Pre-Hearing Conference commitments made to INAC, ECCC, and the KIA.



o The Board also received from AEM written responses to the final written submissions from INAC, ECCC, and the KIA.

■ January 22-February 2, 2016

o The Board received confirmation of attendance and presentations from the parties in preparation for the Public Hearing.

• February 2-5, 2016

o The Board issued public Hearing update and hearing agenda and notification that all relevant submissions and presentations for the Public Hearing were accessible from the Board's public registry.

• February 10-11, 2016

- The Board held Public Hearing in consideration of AEM's application for Type "A" water licence for the development of the Meliadine Gold Project.
- On February 11, 2016, the KIA informed the Board that it was unable to confirm that a water compensation agreement has been entered into by the Applicant and the Designated Inuit Organization (DIO). Additionally, INAC also informed the Board that the parties were waiting for final approval of a security management agreement with respect to reclamation security. Given the outstanding information, the Board directed to keep the Record of the Public Hearing open to allow for the submission of further written materials.

• February 15, 2016

o The NWB issued written direction to keep the Hearing Record open to allow for the submission of further written materials on the narrow issues of water compensation agreement and security management agreement. New evidence consisting of written confirmation that AEM and KIA have entered into a water compensation agreement with respect to Meliadine Gold Project; new evidence consisting of an executed security management agreement between INAC, KIA and AEM.

• February 17-19, 2016

o The NWB received letter from KIA confirming that a Water Compensation Agreement has been entered into between the KIA and AEM with respect to the Meliadine Project. KIA also confirmed that KIA, AEM and INAC have entered into a Meliadine Security Management Agreement and provided copies of the agreement.

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• February 22, 2016

o The NWB issued written direction that the record for the public hearing was closed. The Hearing Record was remitted to the Panel to deliberate and to issue a decision report to the Minister of INAC regarding whether or not to issue the requested Type "A" Water Licence to AEM.

Regulatory History of this Application

On June 8, 2011, the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) determined that the project proposal for the Meliadine Gold Project conforms to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP). As a result, NPC forwarded the project proposal to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for screening.

On October 10, 2014, the NIRB completed a review of the potential eco-systemic and socioeconomic effects of the Project pursuant to Section 12.5.12 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. The NIRB issued a Final Hearing Report and recommended that the Project be allowed to proceed subject to various terms and conditions.

On January 27, 2015, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (now Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada or INAC) accepted the NIRB's recommendation that the Project should proceed subject to the terms and conditions as set out in the Final Hearing Report.

As noted above, the NWB received the Application on May 20, 2015. Pursuant to Article 13, Clause 13.3.6 of the NLCA and s. 29 of the *NWNSRTA*⁵, the full Board has delegated its power to dispose of all matters relating to this Application, including the conduct of the in-person Public Hearing in Rankin Inlet, to a three-member panel (P15 or the Meliadine Panel) of the NWB.

Following the internal and external preliminary review and comment period of the Application for scope and completeness, the NWB issued a formal notice of the Application on June 11, 2015⁶ and distributed the Application for a detailed thirty (30) day technical review period. The notice also invited interveners and interested persons to make submissions to the NWB regarding the Application on or before July 11, 2015.⁷

⁵ Section 29 (1) of the *NWNSRTA* states:

⁽¹⁾ The Board may establish panels of the Board and delegate any of its powers, duties and functions to them.

⁶ As required under s. 55(1) of the *NWNSRTA*.

⁷ Letter from P. Beaulieu, AEM Re: 2 AM-MEL--- Application for Type "A" Water Licence, Meliadine Gold Project; Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd., June 11, 2015.



On October 5, 2015, the NWB issued notice of a Technical Meeting and Pre-hearing Conference in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut (TM/PHC). In advance of the TM/PHC, the Board provided interested parties with two opportunities for comment on the Application. The Board's first comment period requested parties to consider whether the Application was complete and to identify any outstanding issues that should prevent the Board from continuing to process the Application. This comment period closed on July 21, 2015 (extended from July 11, 2015 as per request from KIA). The second comment period requested parties to file substantive technical review comments on or before October 5, 2015 (extended from September 28, 2015 as requested by INAC).

From July 2015, the following Interveners or interested parties provided written technical review comments in respect of the Application:

- the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA);
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (now Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada or INAC);
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO); and
- Environment Canada (now Environment and Climate Change Canada or ECCC).

On October 14 and 15, 2015, the NWB hosted the TM/PHC and Community Session for the Application in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. The meeting was attended by the Board staff, the Applicant, Interveners and community members. The primary goal of the technical meeting was aimed at further defining the outstanding regulatory and technical issues related to the Type "A" water licence application. The secondary goals of the meeting were to discuss the approach contemplated by the Applicant to address the outstanding major issues identified through Interveners' technical review submissions including any information requests.

It should also be noted that, as is the Board's normal practice, the Panel Members of the Board (Meliadine Panel, P15), the decision-makers for the Application, were not present at the TM/PHC or the Community Session, having delegated the conduct of these meetings to the Board's staff.

At the completion of the TM/PHC, the Applicant made a number of commitments to address the concerns or issues raised by the Interveners in their technical comments filed with the Board. (These commitments were summarized in the Commitment List which was attached as Appendix D to the Board's Pre-Hearing Conference Report). All participants at the TM/PHC also confirmed that there were no outstanding issues that would prevent the Board from moving forward to the next step of the licensing process in respect of the Application.



On November 10, 2015, the NWB issued the Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Report (PHC Decision Report or Report) with respect to the Application. The Report set the dates for the Public Hearing in respect of this Application as February 10, 11, 2015 in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. As summarized in the PHC Decision Report the NWB and the parties agreed that the following issues would be discussed at the Public Hearing:

- Scope of the Licence
- Annual Reporting
- Security
 - o Note that the NWB only received submissions from the Applicant and INAC
- Water use and Management
 - o Note that the NWB will require information on water user compensation
- Waste Disposal and management including tailings and waste rocks disposal, including parameters and discharge criteria
- Operations and Maintenance Planning and Procedures, including spill contingency planning
- Review and Comments on updated and revised plans
 - o Note that updated plans must be available for review prior to Public Hearing
- Closure and Reclamation Planning, including overburden storage and potential use
- Monitoring, including Environment Management and Protection Plan, Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program, Water Management Plan, Groundwater Management and Monitoring Study, QA/QC Procedures, Detection Limits

The NWB issued formal notice of the Public Hearing on November 16, 2015 by circulating the notice to the Board's distribution list and publishing the notice in Nunatsiaq News. The notice also advised any parties that wanted to seek compensation for significant adverse effects caused by the use of waters or deposit of waste associated with the Application that failure to respond to the notice and advise the NWB of their intention to make representations about compensation at least 10 days before the Public Hearing may result in a loss of their rights to subsequently seek compensation. 9

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⁸ Notice of the Public Hearing was given in accordance with s. 55(2) of the NWNSRTA.

⁹ As established by ss. 13, 55, 58 and 59 of the NWNSRTA



In advance of the Public Hearing, the Board received written submissions from the following Interveners:

- the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA);
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC); and
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).

On January 8, 2016, AEM filed their final written submission responding to the Interveners' written submissions.

The Public Hearing was conducted in person on February 10 and 11, 2016 in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. The Agendas for the Public Hearing are attached to this Report in <u>APPENDIX A – Agendas or Public Hearing and Community Session</u>. The sign-in sheets, providing a list of attendees at the Public Hearing are provided in <u>APPENDIX E – Sign-in Sheets – List of Participants in the Public Hearing</u>.

A complete list of submissions and correspondence in support of this Application is provided in <u>APPENDIX D – List of Submissions and Correspondence</u>. A list of documentation filed as Exhibits during the Public Hearing is provided in <u>APPENDIX B – Exhibit List</u>. All listed submissions, correspondence, exhibits and transcripts of the Public Hearing have been placed on the Board's public registry and are available from the NWB's ftp site at the following link:

ftp://ftp.nwb-

oen.ca/1%20PRUC%20PUBLIC%20REGISTRY/2%20MINING%20MILLING/2A/2AM %20-%20Mining/2AM-MEL----%20Agnico/1%20APPLICATION/2015%20New/

The Board's decision to hold an in-person Public Hearing in respect of this Application is consistent with the Board's obligation to give due regard and weight to Inuit culture, customs and knowledge, pursuant to Article 13, Clause 13.3.13(b) of the NLCA and s. 33 of the NWNSRTA.

SECTION II SUMMARY OF FINAL HEARING SUBMISSIONS OF THE PARTIES

Designated Inuit Organization (DIO)

The Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) is a Designated Inuit Organization under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, representing the rights and values of the Inuit within the Kivalliq Region of

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Nunavut. The specific focus of the KIA's representation relates to rights to water and wildlife compensation, landowner rights and negotiation of an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA). In their written submissions, the KIA's comments and concerns ¹⁰ included the following:

Freshwater quality

KIA expressed concerns with the freshwater quality in the collection ponds at closure, contact water at Itvia Harbour, and discharges from the Meliadine sewage treatment plant. In particular, KIA was concerned about the adequacy of treatment processes for water prior to discharge. In response, AEM agreed to update standards for freshwater in the collection ponds after the mine has closed; to work with the KIA to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into monitoring and determining the significance of observed changes; to continue using established standards when dealing with contact water at Itivia Site; and to treat process and contact water as needed to ensure it is safe for discharge to Meliadine Lake. KIA submitted that it was satisfied with AEM's response.¹¹

Segregation and Overburden/Waste Management

KIA was concerned about AEM's temporary stockpile for use as the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) closure cover material. Overburden is a source of native plan material that can also be used in the closure of roads, pads and other site infrastructure. In response, AEM provided the KIA with a Technical Memorandum on January 7, 2016, outlining their investigations on whether or not additional overburden could be stored for use at closure, and the potential uses of that overburden. Following review of the Technical Memorandum, KIA indicated that it was satisfied with AEM's response that providing for additional overburden storage is not feasible within the constraints of the Meliadine Gold Project.¹²

Another concern raised by KIA was with respect to the uncertainty in the Application related to when revegetation of the site could be expected after closure. Given the proposed timeline for progressive reclamation of the site, KIA indicated that biodegradation of contaminated soil in the landfarm may not proceed fast enough to ensure no residual effects of the project remain after closure.

¹⁰ The KIA, "Submission from KIA to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Meliadine Type A Water License Technical Review, Public Hearing Submission", prepared by Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd, dated December 16, 2015.

¹¹ The KIA, "Meliadine Type A Water License, Public Hearings, February 10-11, 2016, Rankin Inlet" Hard Copy of the Powerpoint Presentation, Exhibit #4.

¹² The KIA, "Meliadine Type A Water License, Public Hearings, February 10-11, 2016, Rankin Inlet" Hard Copy of the Powerpoint Presentation, Exhibit #4.



At the Public Hearing, KIA indicated that it was satisfied with AEM's response to this issue, noting that AEM had initiated <u>studies</u> in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan to assess revegetation and potential timelines at the site. As well, AEM had provided further information regarding biodegradation rates and potential soil amendment options. ¹³

Saline and freshwater discharges to the receiving environment

KIA was concerned that the operations at Meliadine site will come into contact with saline groundwater below the permafrost and that AEM did not have a corresponding long term plan to safely dispose of the saline groundwater. The KIA requested a saline water management plan be developed prior to any discharges to the environment. In response, AEM committed to providing a Saline Groundwater Management Plan to the NWB at least 6 months prior to discharge of saline groundwater into the environment. KIA submitted that it was satisfied with AEM's response.¹⁴

Water Balance and Water Quality Modeling

KIA was concerned that water balance presented by AEM did not account for a range of potential environmental conditions and requested that AEM provide further detail on the assessment of water quality in the collection ponds after the mine closure. The issue concerned the uncertainty in the model predicting concentrations of the effluent in Meliadine Lake. In response, AEM presented water balances under extreme wet and extreme dry scenarios and provided additional information on effluent quality model inputs and conducted additional modeling under alternate scenarios demonstrating effluent diffused to Meliadine Lake will meet water quality guidelines for safety. AEM also committed to revisit the water quality predictions for closure as more data is generated at the site. KIA submitted that it was satisfied with AEM's response.¹⁵

Dust Management

KIA was concerned with AEM's plan for dry stacking tailings, which would reduce the impact to water but have the potential to generate more dust. As a result, AEM committed to provide more detailed dust monitoring before any disposal of tailings for KIA to review, including the criteria

¹³ The KIA, "Meliadine Type A Water License, Public Hearing, February 10-11, 2016, Rankin Inlet" Hard Copy of the Powerpoint Presentation, Exhibit #4.

¹⁴ The KIA, "Submission from KIA to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Meliadine Type A Water License Technical Review, Public Hearing Submission", prepared by Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd., dated December 16, 2015.

¹⁵ The KIA, "Submission from KIA to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Meliadine Type A Water License Technical Review, Public Hearing Submission", prepared by Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd., dated December 16, 2015.



triggering dust management at closure. AEM indicated that it is exploring alternative bypass routes that would safeguard Nipissar Lake, but it acknowledged that dust from the bypass road near the hamlet may reach Nipissar Lake. AEM clarified its plan to use saline groundwater as a dust suppressant along the roads. AEM committed to apply to GN for authorization to potentially use saline groundwater from the Meliadine site as a dust suppressant. KIA submitted that it was satisfied with AEM's response.¹⁶

Environmental Monitoring

KIA recognized that AEM had considered Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) concerns regarding the project effects in the Water Management Plan, which includes mine design and planning. However, KIA was concerned about the lack of IQ in ongoing monitoring activities. In response, AEM committed to engaging with KIA for further development of IQ aquatic monitoring methods and also to explore the feasibility of having IQ knowledge holders working with the aquatic monitoring team. As a result, KIA submitted that it considered this issue resolved.¹⁷

KIA was also concerned about insufficient monitoring locations for effluent discharges to Meliadine Lake near the diffuser and the lack of monitoring locations near Itivia Harbour. In response, AEM proposed 5 sites in the near-field exposure area as part of the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program. AEM also committed to collect water quality data from three triangulated stations at approximately 100 metres from the diffuser during the period of discharge for two years once discharge starts. In subsequent discussions, AEM addressed the sampling frequency by indicating that: "Three 'diffuser' stations will be sampled on the same schedule as the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program stations for the two years target program; sampling during the underice period will be done only if ice conditions are safe and then monthly during the discharge period." As a result, KIA submitted that it was satisfied with AEM's response. ¹⁸

In its submissions at the Public Hearing, KIA submitted that it had provided 27 separate information requests and technical comments through the review process of the Application. In the months preceding the Public Hearing, KIA and AEM worked to clarify the majority of

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¹⁶ The KIA, "Submission from KIA to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Meliadine Type A Water License Technical Review, Public Hearing Submission", prepared by Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd., dated December 16, 2015.

¹⁷ The KIA, "Submission from KIA to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Meliadine Type A Water License Technical Review, Public Hearing Submission", prepared by Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd, dated December 16, 2015.

¹⁸ The KIA, "Submission from KIA to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Meliadine Type A Water License Technical Review, Public Hearing Submission", prepared by Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd., dated December 16, 2015.



outstanding issues. In KIA's closing statement they provided the following remarks about AEM's consultation process with KIA:

> ... was well-consulted with KIA on many of the issues, and KIA has been [sic] put a lot of higher standards in the review of this project, and we are technically [satisfied] with the outcomes today.¹⁹

To that end, KIA submitted that given the progress made on the licence application to date to resolve outstanding issues between KIA and AEM, KIA was confident that the Application for a new Type "A" Licence should be granted.

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)

INAC (prior to November 2015 Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada) has a broad mandate for the co-management of water resources and the management of Crown land in Nunavut under the following applicable law and policy:

- the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Act²⁰;
- the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act*²¹;
- the Territorial Lands Act²² applicable Regulations²³;
- the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*²⁴;
- the *Nunavut Waters Regulations*²⁵; and
- the Mine Site Reclamation Policy for Nunavut.²⁶

During the technical review of the Application, INAC raised concerns related to the water and mine waste management plans with respect to the following issues²⁷:

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¹⁹ KIA, L. Manzo File No: 2AM-MEL----Agnico, Transcripts of the Public Hearing, February 11, 2016, Volume 2, pg. 151, lines 10-14. ²⁰ R.S.C. 1985, c. I-6.

²¹ S.C. 1993, c. 29.

²² R.S.C. 1985, c. T-7.

²³ See for example Territorial Land Use Regulations, C.R.C. c. 1524 and the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Mining Regulations, C.R.C. c. 1516.

²⁴ S.C. 2002, c. 10.

²⁵ S.O.R./2013-69.

²⁶ Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, (Ottawa: Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, 2002) available on-line: http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ/STAGING/textetext/recpolnuna 1100100036043 eng.pdf.

²⁷ Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, "Executive Summary, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. Water licence Application", Nunavut Water Board, Public Hearings, February 10-11, 2016



- Management of on-site water and measures to reduce and eliminate impacts to the environment.
- Information and clarity on how arsenic will be handled during mining operations.
- Details in its monitoring plan, including locations and frequency of sampling events.
- Clarification on the design of the tailings storage facility, including thermal instrumentation and monitoring.

In its submissions at the Public Hearing, INAC confirmed that its technical issues and corresponding recommendations were met with commitments from AEM to provide all documentation necessary to address any remaining concerns the department would have with the water licence application. To that end, INAC submitted that AEM had addressed all concerns raised by the Department.²⁸

With respect to the terms and conditions of a potential Licence, the following is a summary of the recommendations that INAC outlined for management of potential impacts to water quality²⁹:

- Recommend that AEM update the Water Management Plan within 60 days after the issuance of a water licence.
- Recommend that AEM provide a Hydrogeological Study Report, which would include the results of any measures taken by AEM to manage saline water.
- Recommend that AEM provide detailed designs of the retention dykes and channels to be built at least 60 days prior to construction.
- Recommend that AEM provide a Contingency Plan for arsenic concentrations within 60 days after issuance of water licence.
- Recommend that AEM incorporate monitoring frequency in the Updated Water Management Plan within 60 days issuance of the licence.
- Recommend that AEM provide an updated Water Management Plan within 60 days after issuance of the Licence. The next revision of the WMP should include an adaptive management plan to deal with potential high concentrations of Arsenic in Collection Pond - 1 (CP1).
- Recommend that regulatory and verification monitoring be provided within Annual Reporting to the NWB, which would be March 31st annually.

²⁹ Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, "Final Technical Review of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Application for a New Type A Water Licence for its Proposed Meliadine Gold Mine. Licence No. 2AM-MEL----", December 23, 2015

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²⁸ K. Costello, INAC, NWB Public Hearing File No: 2AM-MEL----Agnico, Transcripts of the Public Hearing, February 10, 2016, Volume 1, page 107.



 Recommend that AEM provide additional details for thermal instrumentation and monitoring for the final design of the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) at least 60 days prior to construction.

Licence Term

INAC submitted that it has no issue with AEM's request for a Licence term of 15 years. In its closing remarks at the Public Hearing, INAC submitted to the Board as follows:

...we're satisfied with the commitment that the Applicant, Agnico Eagle Mines, has made in response to the issues and concerns and recommendations brought forward by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. I'd also like to state that we have no issue with the proposed term of licence as included in the application. The term of licence being requested is 15 years. 30

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

ECCC provided comments reflective of their roles and obligations under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, 1999, the "pollution prevention provisions" within the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and the *Species at Risk Act*. ECCC has general responsibility for environmental management and protection; preservation and enhancement of water, air and soil quality; conservation and protection of migratory birds, species and risk, flora and fauna; the gathering and provision of meteorological information; and coordination of various specific environmental policies and programs.

In their written submissions, the ECCC's comments and concerns³¹ included the following:

Effluent Quality Criteria for metals and other parameters

ECCC submitted that through discussions with AEM, the parties were able to agree upon what would be appropriate to put forward for the NWB's consideration to address the issues concerning the total dissolved solids (TDS) and ammonia. ECCC submitted that it was comfortable with 1400 mg/L if the TDS is reported and regulated as TDS measured, rather than as TDS calculated.

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³⁰ INAC, K. Costello, NWB Public Hearing File No. 2AM-MEL----Agnico, Transcripts of the Public Hearing, February 11, 2016, Volume 2, page 152, lines 13-20

³¹ The ECCC, "Re: ECCC intervention to the Nunavut Water Board respecting the Meliadine Gold Project – Phase 1 Type "A" Water Licence Application", dated December 24, 2015.



For ammonia, ECCC was concerned with acute toxicity and whether the Effluent Quality Criteria (EQC) for effluent with high pH levels. To avoid end-of-pipe acute toxicity, EQC for ammonia of 14mg/L average and 18 mg/L maximum grab were proposed with the contingency that if effluent pH is high enough to cause ammonia toxicity, pH adjustment would be used to ensure concentrations are not acutely toxic. ECCC expressed similar concerns for aluminum because higher pH could result in effluent toxicity. In response, AEM committed to reduce the potential toxicity due to aluminum.

Management of total phosphorus entering Meliadine Lake

ECCC was concerned with the total phosphorous entering Meliadine Lake, including effects at the edge of the mixing zone because there could be localized effects such as increased productivity which could lead to changes in trophic status. In its submissions, ECCC acknowledged that AEM's response by providing relevant information regarding the lake flushing rate for Meliadine Lake, and AEM's proposal for adaptive management actions to deal with increases in total phosphorous, such as additional monitoring and effluent treatment would be sufficient to address these concerns.

Study design for aquatic monitoring

ECCC had concerns about AEM's under-ice water quality sampling to provide the data needed to detect mine-related effects in the receiving environment. In response, AEM provided information on how the data collected will be evaluated and proposed adaptive management actions to address any concerns arising from the evaluation of the water quality data.

ECCC submitted that while it had a few outstanding issues with respect to water quality from the TM, after the TM/PHC and prior to the Public Hearing, the Department and AEM had conducted discussions about these outstanding issues. As a result of these discussions, the outstanding issues were resolved.³² In its concluding statement to the Board, ECCC submitted that:

We would like to reiterate that all of Environment and Climate Change Canada's concerns that have arisen during this water-licence process have been addressed by Agnico Eagle through the water-licence process. ³³

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³² The ECCC, "Environment and Climate Change Canada's Presentation to the Nunavut Water Board Concerning Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Gold Project Type "A" Water Licence Application, Nunavut Water Board Public Hearing, Rankin Inlet, NU, February 10 -11, 2016", Hard Copy of PowerPoint Presentation, Exhibit #5.

³³ECCC, M. Pinto, NWB Public Hearing File No. 2AM-MEL----Agnico, Transcripts of the Public Hearing, February 11, 2016, volume 2, page 153, lines 19-24



SECTION III SUBMISSIONS BY OTHER INTERVENING PARTIES OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At the Pre-hearing Conference the NWB held in Rankin Inlet, the Board's staff were advised that although Rankin Inlet was the most appropriate place to hold the Public Hearing, the communities of Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet should also be represented at the Public Hearing as these communities could potentially be affected by the activities and facilities included in the Application. Consequently, to ensure that the Board was provided with the opportunity to hear the concerns, questions and issues of these communities, the Board invited four members from each of the above-mentioned communities, representing Elders, the local Hunters and Trappers Organization, youth, women and the Hamlet to attend the Public Hearing in Rankin Inlet. At the Public Hearing, these community representatives were given specific opportunities to ask questions of the Applicant and the interveners and to provide the Board with their views, identify issues, express concerns and provide any other comments relevant to the Application.

In the table that follows the Board has provided a summary, by topic, of the key issues related to the Type "A" Water Licence Application raised by community members during the Public Hearing and Community Sessions. Those parties interested in a review of all comments received in their entirety are advised to consult the transcripts for the Public Hearing available on-line from the NWB's website. The Board notes that there were no written submissions provided to the NWB by any other intervening party or members of the public.

TABLE 1: KEY ISSUES RAISED BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMUNITY SESSION

Topic	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Monitoring	What measures will be in place to monitor water quality from construction to reclamation stages of the project? Whether there will be monitoring of potential impact to freshwater used for drinking?
Additional Studies	Will there be studies done around the perimeter of the exploration or mining camp to study the potential effects to nearby waterbodies?



Topic	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Monitoring Cumulative Impact	If the NWB approves the application for the Meliadine Project, which would be in addition to the Meadowbank Project, whether there will be cumulative effects as a result of all the mining activities in the Kivalliq Region?
Monitoring Post- closure	Whether AEM will be monitoring water quality after mine closure?
Wildlife effects	What wildlife monitoring plan will AEM put in pace to monitor the effects on caribou and caribou migration patterns?
Effects on fish	What monitoring will be in place to determine the impact on fish, fish habitat, and fish spawning? What will AEM do if they find contaminated fish in the lake? What measures will be in place to address potential effects of blasting and the resulting noise from use of explosives in areas near or around fish-bearing water bodies? What measures will be in place to address potential effects of digging and other mining activities to fish in nearby water bodies?
Climate Change	Concerns about the effects of climate change combined with the effects of mining to the Arctic environment.
Mitigation Measures	Whether AEM will use liners in the treatment pond?
By-pass road	Whether AEM has a confirmed route for its by pass road?



Topic	Issues/Concerns/Comments
Reclamation	What regulatory enforcement measures are in place to ensure that when the mine closes, the environment will be restored to the original conditions?
Future exploration	Whether AEM will be exploring near Peter Lake and if it does, what notice will be given to the communities?
Reporting	How will INAC report to the impacted communities about the water quality and any changes as a result of Meliadine mining activities? Can INAC provide regular updates to impacted communities? Whether INAC will provide in person reporting to the impacted communities about the Department's monitoring and investigation results? What measures will INAC put in place to increase public access to information about monitoring and investigations? For example, how will INAC ensure the dissemination of information and public access to information? Will INAC inform the Department of Health about the monitoring results in relation impact to fresh water as a result of mining activities?
Social Economic related issues	What are AEM's plans to hire Inuit employees?

JURISDICTION OF THE NWB SECTION IV

Under Division 2 of the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act³⁴ (NWNSRTA) the NWB has jurisdiction to issue a licence, 35 amend a licence, 36 or in certain circumstances, cancel a licence.³⁷ In exercising the Board's statutory functions under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and the statutory regime governing the Board (the NWNSRTA and the *Nunavut Waters Regulations*), the NWB must be guided by the following objects:

Sections 42-81 of the NWNSRTA.
 See ss. 42, 48, 55, 56, and 70 of the NWNSRTA.
 See s. 43(1)(b) of the NWNSRTA.

³⁷ See s. 43(1)(c) of the NWNSRTA.



... to provide for the conservation and utilization of waters in Nunavut, except in a national park, in a manner that will provide the optimum benefit from those waters for the residents of Nunavut in particular and Canadians in general.³⁸

In setting the terms and conditions of a licence, the NWB is guided by these objects and the NWB's statutory duty to make *all* reasonable efforts to minimize *any* adverse effects on aquatic ecosystems. Reading several of the Articles of the NLCA together,³⁹ the NWB relies on the broad definition of "ecosystemic" found in Article 12, Section 12.1.1 of the NLCA, requiring not only the NIRB but also the NWB to ensure that all components of the ecosystem, such as fish and fish habitat, are protected within the parameters of s. 71 of the NWNSRTA.

As with any applications considered by the NWB, the burden of proof rests with the Applicant, AEM, to demonstrate that the request for a water licence should be granted should be granted. In addition, the NWB Rules state: "[a]ny party offering evidence before the NWB shall have the burden of introducing sufficient and appropriate evidence to support its position."

Where intervening parties, community representatives and the public present no evidence supporting or rejecting the Applicant's evidence, the NWB will base its decision on its own assessment of the Applicant's request.

SECTION V REQUIREMENTS OF THE NWNSRTA AND THE NLCA

Objects of the NWB and its Relationship to other Bodies

Land Use Planning

As noted in the discussion of the regulatory history, in June 2011 the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) determined that the Meliadine Gold Project conforms to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP).

Environmental Assessment

³⁸ See s. 35 of the *NWNSRTA*.

³⁹ This approach is consistent with the direction provided in Article 2, section 2.9.1 of the NLCA.

⁴⁰ Section 23.1 of the Nunavut Water Board "Rules of Practice and Procedure for Public Hearing", dated May 11, 2005.



As noted in the discussion of the regulatory history, in October 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) completed a review of the potential eco-systemic and socio-economic effects of the Project and recommended that the Project be allowed to proceed subject to various terms and conditions. In January 2015, the Minister approved NIRB's recommendation that the Project be allowed to proceed. In that regards, the NIRB issued the Project Certificate [No. 006] to AEM on February 26, 2015.

Inuit Water Rights

Separate from the IIBA, KIA and AEM addressed the impacts of the Project on Inuit water rights pursuant to Article 20 of the NLCA and s. 63 of the NWNSRTA. As previously discussed, at the conclusion of the in person Public Hearing in February 11, 2016, KIA was unable to confirm that a water compensation agreement had been entered into by AEM and KIA. Consequently, the Panel directed that the Record of the Public Hearing would remain open for a period of one week in order for the KIA and AEM to provide the outstanding information.

On February 19, 2016, KIA confirmed in writing that a Water Compensation Agreement had been entered into between the KIA and AEM in respect of the Meliadine Project, as contemplated by Section 20.3.1 of the NLCA. On that basis the Board has determined that the compensation requirements of s. 63(1)(a)⁴¹ of the NWNSRTA have been met with respect to the Application.

Recommendations on Marine Areas

Section 41 of the NWNSRTA permits the Board to advise and make recommendations with respect to any marine matters that may arise to any department or agency of the Government of Canada or the Government of Nunavut.⁴² No issues related to marine matters were raised during the course of the Public Hearing and the Board has made no recommendations on marine areas for this Application.

The Board shall not issue a licence in respect of a use of waters or a deposit of waste that may substantially affect the quality, quantity or flow of waters flowing through Inuit- owned land, unless

(a) the applicant has entered into an agreement with the designated Inuit organization to pay compensation for any loss or damage that may be caused by the change; or

The Board may, either jointly with the Nunavut Planning Commission, the Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, as established by the Agreement, acting as the Nunavut Marine Council referred to in section 15.4.1 of the Agreement, or on its own, advise and make recommendations respecting any marine area to any department or agency of the Government of Canada or the Government of Nunavut, and those governments shall consider that advice and those recommendations when making any decision that may affect that marine area.

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⁴¹ Section 63(1) states:

⁴² Section 41 of the NWNSRTA states:



<u>SECTION VI</u> <u>DECISION TO ISSUE</u>

Following the Public Hearing and for reasons elaborated further below, the Board has decided to issue Water Licence 2AM-MEL1631 (Licence) subject to the conditions set out therein. The Licence contains terms and conditions necessary to protect the environment, conserve the water resources, and provide appropriate safeguards in respect of the Licensee's use of waters and deposit of waste.

Conditions for Issuance of a Licence

Section 57 of the NWNSRTA provides several key legislative requirements that must be satisfied before the NWB may issue a licence.

The Board may not issue a licence unless the applicant satisfies the Board that

- (a) any waste produced by the appurtenant undertaking will be treated and disposed of in a manner that is appropriate for the maintenance of the water quality standards and effluent standards that are prescribed by the regulations or, in the absence of such regulations, that the Board considers acceptable; and
 - (b) the financial responsibility of the applicant, taking into account the applicant's past performance, is adequate for
 - (i) the completion of the appurtenant undertaking,
 - (ii) such measures as may be required in mitigation of any adverse impact, and
 - (iii) the satisfactory maintenance and restoration of the site in the event of any future closing or abandonment of that undertaking.

Financial Responsibility of the Applicant

As outlined under the NWNSRTA, s. 57(b), the NWB considers three aspects of financial responsibility:

- the financial ability of the Applicant to complete the appurtenant undertaking;
- the ability of the Applicant to undertake measures to adequately monitor for impacts and implement measures to mitigate any impacts; and
- the Applicant's ability to maintain and restore the site during care and maintenance, closure and abandonment.

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This third aspect of financial responsibility will be specifically addressed in the section of this decision discussing reclamation security.

Section 57 also makes it clear that the NWB's assessment of the Applicant's financial responsibility is a contextual analysis that considers not only the undertaking which is the subject matter of the Licence, but also the Applicant, with particular regard to the Applicant's past performance.

With respect to considering AEM's past performance to assess their financial capacity to carry out the undertaking, the Board notes that, since 2006 the Applicant has had four Type "B" Licences in place to authorize various water uses and waste deposits associated with exploration activities for the Meliadine Gold Project, including effluent discharges from the camp at the mine (exploration) site. There was no evidence before the Board of any substantial outstanding issues of noncompliance with the existing type "B" Licences that would suggest the Applicant is unable to fulfill the financial responsibilities associated with the Meliadine Gold Mine Project.

Equally important, AEM has been operating the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project since 2008, which is approximately 70 km north of the Hamlet of Baker Lake, Nunavut. Recently, AEM sought and received approval to renew and amend the Type "A" Water Licence to continue mining operation at the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project. There is no evidence before the Board of any outstanding issues that would suggest limits on the financial ability of AEM to complete the appurtenant undertaking.

The Board also notes that with respect to all elements of the Applicant's financial responsibility, none of the parties, community members, representatives from the communities of Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet presented evidence that would call into question the Applicant's financial responsibility as required by s. 57(b). The Board has therefore concluded that the Applicant has established that AEM has the financial resources to meet the obligations imposed under a Type "A" Water Licence for the Meliadine Gold Mine Project.

Compensation of Existing or Other Users

The NWNSRTA requires that the NWB be satisfied that compensation of existing or other water users affected by the Application has been or will be paid.⁴³ To ensure that all parties with the potential to bring a water compensation claim have been notified of their rights under the

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⁴³ See ss. 58-60 of the NWNSRTA.



NWNSRTA, the NWB provided, in the Notice of Application, an invitation to parties with water user compensation issues to advise the NWB regarding such issues. Notice of the Application in accordance with s. 55 of the NWNSRTA was issued by the Board on June 11, 2015 and the NWB confirms that no representations regarding compensation were made to NWB.

Issuance of a Licence

As stated above and pursuant to s. 42(1) of the NWNSRTA, the NWB has decided to issue Water Licence 2AM-MEL1631 subject to the terms and conditions set out in this decision and in the Licence. In issuing the Licence, the NWB is satisfied that the Application contained the required information and is in the proper form having regard to the requirements of the NWNSRTA⁴⁴ and associated regulations.⁴⁵

Assumptions

When faced with choices regarding monitoring requirements such as standards or parameters to be imposed under the Licence, the Board has opted to impose stringent monitoring requirements in an effort to ensure that the Applicant meets their on-going environmental protection obligations.

Applications in Relation to the Licences

Overall, the NWB is satisfied that the requirements of s. 48 of the NWNSRTA have been met. AEM filed an Application, which complied with the NWB's Guide No.4 (Guideline for Completing and Submitting an Application for a New Water Licence) and associated Supplemental Information Guideline (MM3) for Mine Development, accompanied by the fees required by Nunavut Waters Regulations, including the application fee. In addition, AEM has provided the necessary application and supplementary information requests required for evaluating whether the licence should be granted.

Application to Amend or Application for Future Modifications

In relation to future applications to amend or modify the post-closure monitoring activities proposed by AEM and associated reclamation and remediation measures that may become necessary, the NWB reminds AEM that it must comply with all requirements of the NLCA⁴⁶ and NWNSRTA⁴⁷ where applicable.

⁴⁴ See s. 48 of the NWNSRTA.

⁴⁵ Nunavut Waters Regulations, SOR/2013-69, April 18, 2013.

⁴⁶ See Article 12, Clause 12.4.3 (b) of the NLCA.

⁴⁷ See s. 43 of the NWNSRTA.



Assignment of a Licence

In future, should AEM wish to assign the Licence, it should be aware that a water licence is <u>only</u> <u>assignable</u> if the requirements of s. 44 of the NWNSRTA have been met. This section states:

A sale or other disposition by a licensee of any right, title or interest in an appurtenant undertaking constitutes, subject to the authorization of the Board, an assignment of the licence to the person to whom the sale or other disposition is made.

All necessary forms for filing an application for assignment can be obtained from the NWB Licensing Department.

Cancellation or Expiry of the Licence

The NWB notes that s. 46 of the NWNSRTA states: "[t]he expiry or cancellation of a licence does not relieve the holder from any obligations imposed by the licence."

In addition, based on the NWB's authority under s. 43(1)(c)(iii) of the NWNSRTA, the NWB may, on application by a licensee, or on its own motion, cancel a licence at any time when the NWB considers the cancellation to be in the public interest. For the NWB to consider cancellation of a licence, the NWB requires evidence from the licensee and INAC's Inspector establishing that an undertaking has been abandoned, fully reclaimed and there are no outstanding obligations under the licence.

Term of Licence

Section 45 of the NWNSRTA provides that the term of a licence or any renewal shall not exceed twenty-five years.

The Applicant has applied for a term of 15 years to develop Phase 1 of the Project, which focuses on the development of the Tiragniaq gold deposit. The mine plan schedule comprises essentially of 4 years of construction, 8 years of active mining, and 3 years of closure and post-closure. As previously mentioned, while the Application indicates that closure and post-closure will occur after the 8 years of active mining, AEM indicated during the Public Hearing that the company's goal is to potentially continue operation after Phase 1 by seeking approval for mining of the other deposits.



The Board notes there were no issues raised by the parties with regard to the Applicant's proposed term of the Licence. The NWB is satisfied that a 15-year term for the licence is appropriate to meet the objective of providing certainty for the Applicant and accountability for interested parties. Therefore the Board accepts AEM's request for a term of 15 years and unless renewed, the Licence will expire in 2031.

SECTION VII WATER LICENCE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Licence does not take effect until approval of the Minister is given or deemed to have been given pursuant to s. 56 of the NWNSRTA. As indicated in Section VI, the Panel has decided to issue a Type "A" Water Licence, subject to the conditions contained in the attached Licence. To provide context and clarity, the NWB has provided discussion and commentary about only specific terms and conditions in the text that follows. The Board has not included discussion or commentary with respect to those licence terms and conditions that are clear in their wording and intent on the face of the Licence.

Part A: Scope, Definitions and Enforcement

The undertaking, for which this Licence is issued, is classified as Mining Undertaking in accordance with Schedule 1, Item 2 of the *Nunavut Waters Regulations*.⁴⁹ The general scope of the Licence includes the following activities and/or facilities:

At the Meliadine Mine Site:

- Use of Water from Meliadine Lake for mining and milling, associated activities and domestic purposes;
- Withdrawal and use of Water from Meliadine Lake for re-flooding of Tiriganiaq 1 and Tiriganiaq 2 open pits following pit development;
- Dewatering of Lakes A54, H17, H19 and H20

The issuance, amendment, renewal and cancellation of a type A licence, and if a public hearing is held, a Type B licence are subject to the approval of the Minister.

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⁴⁸ Section 56 of the NWNSRTA states:

s. 56(2.2) if the Minister does not issue a decision within 45 days of receiving the Licence from the Board, (or within 90 days if the Minister has extended the decision-making period by an additional 45 days) the Minister is deemed to have approved the Licence.

⁴⁹ SOR/2013-69.



- Construction and Operation of mine site facilities including mill, underground mine access Portal 2, offices, warehouses, maintenance and on-site storage areas, accommodation infrastructure and site roads;
- Quarrying of materials from specified locations;
- Construction and Operation of a Power Generation Plant;
- Construction and Operation of the Fuel Storage and Containment Facility;
- Construction and Operation of Ramp and Haul Roads;
- Operation of the All-weather Access Road, Rankin Inlet By-pass Road and associated infrastructure;
- Construction and Operation of an Explosives Production and Storage Facility;
- Construction and Operation of a Laboratory and Core Shack;
- Construction and Operation of Water Management Infrastructure, including
 - o Freshwater Intake and infrastructure
 - Water Collection Ponds
 - Water Retention Dikes and Berms
 - Water Collection Ditches
 - o Surface and Underground Water Treatment Plants
 - o Sewage Treatment Plant, and
 - o Diffuser;
- Construction and Operation of Waste Disposal Infrastructure, including:
 - o Landfill
 - o Landfarm
 - Incinerator
 - o Ore Storage Facilities;
 - Waste Rock Storage Facilities, and
 - o Tailings Storage Facility;
- Management and disposal of Wastes associated with the Surface and Underground Water Treatment Facilities, Sewage Treatment Plant, Waste Rock Storage Facilities, Landfill, Landfarm, Incinerator, and other wastes as described in the Application;



- Handling and storage of petroleum products and hazardous materials;
- Deposition of tailings into the Tailings Storage Facility;
- Diversion of site runoff water to water management facilities;
- Controlled and regulated Discharge of Effluent from the Water Treatment Plant, Collection Pond No. 1 (CP1) to Meliadine Lake through an effluent diffuser; and

At the Itivia Satellite Site (Rankin Inlet):

- Construction and Operation of the Fuel Storage and Containment Facility (included in the scope of the Water Licence 8BC-MEL1516 issued for Meliadine Gold Site Preparation);
- Construction and Operation of the laydown area (included in the scope of the Water Licence 8BC-MEL1516 issued for Meliadine Gold Site Preparation);
- Installation of the Spud Barge Structure;
- Construction, Operation of the Rankin Inlet By Pass Road; and
- Progressive Reclamation and Abandonment planning of all on-site and Itivia Satellite
 Site's facilities and infrastructure.

Further information and detail of the scope of the Licence and its activities and/or facilities can be accessed using the following link:

ftp://ftp.nwboen.ca/1%20PRUC%20PUBLIC%20REGISTRY/2%20MINING%20MILLING/2A/2AM
%20-%20Mining/2AM-MEL----%20Agnico/1%20APPLICATION/2015%20New/

During the Board's review of the Application, AEM indicated that some aspects of scope of the four existing Type "B" Licences would be subsumed under the scope of the Type "A" Water Licence when issued. In particular, the Board expects that the entire scope of Licence No. 8BC-MEL1516 (Meliadine Gold Site Preparation Project) and Licence No.2BW-MEL1525 (Phase 1 – Meliadine All-Weather Access Road Project, for crossings and road construction) will be included under this Licence, however for Licence No.2BE-MEP1318, Licence No.2BB-MEL1424 it is the Board's understanding that some aspects of the scope of activities included under those Licences will remain outside the scope of this Type "A" Licence. On this basis, upon issuance of the Type "A" Licence, AEM may apply to cancel Licence No.s 8BC-MEL1516 and 2BW-MEL1525 and upon the receipt of the cancellation request and an Inspection Report from INAC Field Operations, the Board may cancel these Licences. With respect to the remaining two Type "B"

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Licences, AEM may apply to the Board to amend or cancel these Licences, however appropriate, by applying to remove from the scope of the Type "B" Licences any aspects of these Licences that are included under the scope of the Type "A" Water Licence or to outright cancel the Licence if no longer needed.

The Licensee continues to be accountable for the condition of the site for the duration of the Licence, and is responsible to undertake any reclamation, remediation or other impact mitigation activities that may be required, if monitoring identifies impacts or potential for environmental impacts resulting from the former mine or associated infrastructure. If monitoring or inspection activities identify potential for impacts or actual impacts, the Board may require the Licensee to undertake additional activities at the site. Depending on the nature of the reclamation, remediation or other impact mitigation measures required, the Licensee or the Board may revisit the scope of the Licence to include any specific water use or waste deposits associated with these activities.

The type of activities intended to address the potential impacts from licensed undertakings may be referred to as "restoration," "rehabilitation," "remediation," "reclamation," etc. These terms are often used interchangeably in practice, but their definitions vary by authorizing and implementing agencies. For the purposes of the Licence, the Board adopts the terminology provided by the Guidelines for the Closure and Reclamation of Advanced Mineral Exploration and Mine Sites in the NWT (the 2013 Guidelines)⁵¹ which uses the following definitions:

"Reclamation" is the process of returning a disturbed site to its natural state or one for other productive uses that prevents or minimizes any adverse effects on the environment or threats to human health and safety.

"Remediation" is the removal, reduction, or neutralization of substances, wastes or hazardous material from a site in order to prevent or minimize any adverse effects on the environment and public safety now or in the future.

http://mvlwb.com/sites/default/files/documents/wg/WLWB_5363_Guidelines_Closure_Reclamation_WR.pdf

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⁵⁰ Mine Site Reclamation Policy for Nunavut, 2002, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, (Ottawa: Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, 2002) available on-line: http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ/STAGING/texte-text/recpolnuna_1100100036043_eng.pdf.

⁵¹Guidelines for the Closure and Reclamation of Advanced Mineral Exploration and Mine Sites in the NWT, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Boards and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, (MVLWB/AANDC: Yellowknife, 2013) available on-line:



Reflecting these definitions and the Board's mandate to protect Nunavut's freshwater systems and dependent ecosystems for future generations, the terms and conditions included in the Licence are designed to ensure that the potential for environmental impacts associated with the Meliadine Gold Project both now and in the future are monitored and, if necessary mitigated.

While not a subject matter of this Licence, the Board notes that post-closure monitoring for the Project, which will be conducted by AEM and enforced by INAC, is an activity requiring future licensing. Therefore, the primary purpose of the monitoring associated with the Project for now and in the future will be to continue to provide information which confirms that the four closure principles are met: 1) physical stability; 2) chemical stability; 3) there are no long-term active care requirements; and 4) the actual condition does not represent any restriction on the future use of the site (including aesthetics and values).⁵²

Definition

The Licensee shall refer to Schedule A of the Licence for definitions of terms used in this Licence.

Enforcement and Compliance

For the purpose of ensuring compliance with the Licence, an Inspector designated by the Minister of INAC may inspect or examine works, waters or waste and exercise other powers according to the NWNSRTA.⁵³ The NWNSRTA also includes provisions authorizing the NWB to require a licensee to furnish and maintain security and prescribing serious penalties for breach of the licence.⁵⁴ Investigations or inspections to support enforcement and compliance are carried out by persons designated and empowered by the Minister.⁵⁵

The Board also points out to AEM that the Licence states that "Compliance with the terms and conditions of this Licence does not absolve the licensee from responsibility for compliance with all applicable legislation, guidelines and directives."

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⁵² Guidelines for the Closure and Reclamation of Advanced Mineral Exploration and Mine Sites in the NWT, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Boards and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, (MVLWB/AANDC: Yellowknife, 2013) available on-line:

http://mvlwb.com/sites/default/files/documents/wg/WLWB_5363_Guidelines_Closure_Reclamation_WR.pdf

⁵³ Sections 85-94 of the *NWNSRTA*.

⁵⁴ Section 90 of the *NWNSRTA*.

⁵⁵ Section 85-88 of the *NWNSRTA*.



Part B: General Conditions

Reports and/or Plans Filed with the NWB

The following Programs have been filed by the Applicant and approved and/or accepted by the Board with the approval of the Licence:

- Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) Design Plan, April 2015;
- Borrow Pits and Quarries Management Plan, Version 4, April 2015;
- Environmental Management and Protection Plan (EMPP), Version 4, April 2015;
- Hazardous Materials Management Plan, Version 4, April 2015;
- *Incineration Management Plan, Version 4, April 2015;*
- Landfarm Management Plan, Version 1, April 2015;
- Landfill and Waste Management Plan, Version 4, April 2015;
- Mine Waste Management Plan, Version 1, April 2015;
- Ore Storage Management Plan, April 2015;
- Preliminary Mine Closure and Reclamation Plan, Version 1, April 2015;
- Risk Management and Emergency Response Plan, Version 4, April 2015;
- Roads Management Plan, Version 4, April 2015;
- Spill Contingency Plan, Version 4, April 2015; and
- Water Management Plan; Version 1, April.

Additional Plans submitted in support of the Application included:

- Explosives Management Plan, Version 4, April 2015;
- Mine Plan, Version 1, April 2015; and
- Quality Assurance and Quality Control, Version 1, April 2015 and updated Version 2, December 2015;

AEM should note that, where applicable, relevant management plans must be accepted or approved by the NWB in writing to be officially considered consistent with the requirements in the Licence. The approval or acceptance of a plan, however, does not necessarily imply that the NWB has accepted each elements not associated with the NWB's mandate.

The NWB may alter or modify a plan, if necessary, to achieve the legislative objectives and will notify the licensee in writing of acceptance, rejection, or alteration of any plan. The plan must then be carried out in a manner and timeframe consistent with the NWB's direction. Every plan to be carried out pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Licence shall become a part of the Licence, and any additional terms and conditions imposed upon approval of a plan by the NWB also become part of the Licence.



Part C: Conditions Applying to Security

Requirement of Security

The NWNSRTA allows the Board to require the Licensee to furnish and maintain security with the Minister in a form determined by the regulations or satisfactory to the Minister. Specifically subsection 76(1) of the NWNSRTA states:

The Board may require an applicant, a licensee or a prospective assignee to furnish and maintain security with the Minister in the form, of the nature, subject to such terms and conditions and in an amount prescribed by, or determined in accordance with, the regulations or that is satisfactory to the Minister.

Further, as referred to in the section discussing the financial responsibility of the Applicant, the Board may not issue a Licence unless the Board is satisfied regarding the financial responsibility of the Applicant, including reviewing any costs associated with the closing or abandonment of the undertaking.⁵⁶

The Board's Jurisdiction over Land and Water Security

In accordance with its duties and authority under the NLCA and the NWNSRTA, the Board has a broad and widely recognized mandate to assess and order both land and water related security, to ensure that the overall reclamation of the licensed undertaking is secured.⁵⁷

As a result of its statutory authority and obligations, the Board has established a holistic and practical approach to the assessment of the security required to be held by the Applicants under their Water Licence. This holistic and practical approach was first described in the 2001 decision in the BHP Boston Licence renewal, as cited in the Board's decision for the Doris North Project.⁵⁸

In the current Water Licence Application the Applicant, INAC, and KIA raised no issue with the Board's mandate to assess security sufficient to reclaim all sites affected and impacts created by the licensed undertaking. This approach is also consistent with the principles as set out in the *Mine Site Reclamation Policy for Nunavut*, 2002, which provides:

⁵⁶ Subsection 57(b) of the NWNSRTA.

⁵⁷ Nunavut Water Board, Reasons for Decision for 2AM-DOH0713, September 19, 2007 at p. 25.

⁵⁸ From the Board's 2001 renewal of the Boston Licence, as cited in the Hope Bay decision, see Nunavut Water Board, Reasons for Decision for 2AM-DOH0713, September 19, 2007 at p. 23.



- The total financial security for final reclamation required at any time during the life of the mine should be equal to the total outstanding reclamation liability for land and water combined (calculated at the beginning of the work year, to be sufficient to cover the highest liability over that time period).
- Financial security requirements related to reclamation should be clearly set out in water licences, land leases and other regulatory instruments, though there may be circumstances where security requirements may be more appropriately dealt with through an agreement.⁵⁹

Arrangements relating to security

The Yukon and Nunavut Regulatory Improvement Act⁶⁰, received Royal Assent on June 18, 2015 and introduced a number of amendments to the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act (NWNSRTA). While the majority of the changes will take effect in 2016, significant to this decision, the new section 76.1 of the NWNSRTA came into force in 2015 to address the issues of double bonding or over bonding of financial security. The new section 76.1(1) states:

76.1 (1) If a licence is in respect of an appurtenant undertaking that is situated, partially or wholly, on Inuit-owned land, the Minister may enter into a written arrangement with the designated Inuit organization and the applicant, licensee or prospective assignee of the license that provides for

- (a) the amount of security to be furnished and maintained by the applicant, licensee or prospective assignee, as well as the form and nature and any conditions of the security, for the purpose mentioned in paragraph 76(2)(b) or for the purpose of reimbursing the designated Inuit organization for the costs specified in the arrangement; and
- (b) the periodic review of the security, including by taking into account any material changes to the undertaking or the risk of environmental damage, and the adjustment of the amount of the security as a result of the review.

Where these parties have entered into such an agreement, if the parties wish the Board to take the agreement into account when fixing the security to be held under a Licence, a copy of the security arrangement must be provided to Board as follows:

⁶⁰ S.C. 2015, c. 19

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⁵⁹ *Mine Site Reclamation Policy for Nunavut*, 2002, at http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ/STAGING/texte-text/recpolnuna 1100100036043 eng.pdf .



(2) The Minister shall, as soon as possible after entering into the written arrangement described in subsection (1), provide a copy of it to the Board.

If a written arrangement is provided, it must be taken into account by the Board, as set out under s. 76(1):

(3) The Board shall take into account the written arrangement when it determines the amount of the security required to be furnished and maintained by the applicant, licensee or prospective assignee under subsection 76(1).

Accordingly, the amendment requires the NWB to consider any security arrangements that are in place between the Designated Inuit Organization, the Government of Canada and the Applicant, with a view to avoiding a situation of overlapping security being held for a project under the water licence and other instruments as may be required by the Designated Inuit Organization as land owner, such as a commercial production lease, land use permit, land lease, etc. The situation of over bonding occurs when an applicant may be required to provide reclamation security to the Crown under the water licence and also to the Inuit land owner, and the combined amount exceeds the total global reclamation cost estimate for the project.⁶¹

In this case, the Minister of INAC entered into the Meliadine Security Management Agreement⁶² with the KIA, AEM and INAC. On February 19, 2016, a copy of the Meliadine Security Management Agreement was submitted to the Board for consideration when determining the amount of reclamation security that should be required to be held under the Type "A" Water Licence in respect of the Meliadine Gold Mine Project. In the Meliadine Security Management Agreement. INAC and the KIA agree to each hold 50% of the global security amount required to abandon and reclaim the undertaking.⁶³

Meliadine Security Management Agreement

Consistent with the Board's above-mentioned view regarding the holistic and practical approach to the assessment of the security required to be held by the Applicant under its Water Licence, the Meliadine Security Management Agreement (SMA or the Agreement) recognizes that:

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⁶¹ INAC, K. Costello, NWB Public Hearing File No. 2AM-MEL----Agnico, Transcripts of the Public Hearing, February 11, 2016, volume 2, pages 137

⁶² A copy of the Meliadine Security Management Agreement, Final February 8, 2015 Version, provided to the NWB on February 19, 2016.

⁶³ Meliadine Security Management Agreement, Final February 8, 2015 Version, provided to the NWB on February 19, 2016, Article 6, Item 1.



WHEREAS both land and water impacts are an integral part of the proponent's reclamation plan and reclamation costs estimate and are considered together holistically by the NWB when it requires the proponent to furnish and maintain security pursuant to subsection 76(1) of the NWNSRTA;⁶⁴

The Agreement further states that its purpose is to be:

WHEREAS this Agreement is intended to be an arrangement as contemplated by section 76.1(1) of the NWNSRTA for the purpose of, amongst other things, reimbursing KIA for its costs as permitted by section 76.1(1)(a), and the NWB must, in accordance with subsection 76.1(3) take this Agreement into account when it determines the amount of security required to be furnished and maintained by the proponent: ⁶⁵

The Agreement specifically addresses the issue of over-bonding by providing under Article 4 that:

KIA shall not require the proponent to furnish or maintain additional security that duplicates security furnished and maintained by the proponent with the Minister pursuant to the water licence, and with KIA pursuant to this Agreement.

The Agreement further submits the following proposal under Article 2 of the Agreement to the Board in relation to the amount, form and nature of security to be provided by the Proponent under the Water Licence:

In the course of the proponent's application to the NWB for a type A water licence for the project, the proponent shall propose the following, as approved by KIA and the Minister, to the NWB:

- (a) reclamation plan that includes a reclamation cost estimate of measures to prevent, counteract, mitigate and remedy adverse effects on persons, property and the environment;
- (b) to furnish and maintain security of a specified amount, form and nature and subject to specified conditions sufficient to provide for the reclamation costs estimate with respect to land and water;
- (c) to furnish and maintain half of the security with the Minister and the other half with KIA:
- (d) that the NWB takes into account this Agreement, pursuant to subsection 767.1(3) of the NWNSRTA, when it determines the amount of security required to be furnished and maintained with the Minister;

65 Meliadine Security Management Agreement, pg. 2

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⁶⁴ Meliadine Security Management Agreement, pg. 2



- (e) that the proponent will not perform work in respect of which security has not been furnished and maintained;
- (f) that the proponent will provide evidence to the NWB and the Minister, within 10 days after furnishing security to the Minister, showing the amount, form, nature and conditions of the security and that it has been received by the Minister; and
- (g) the periodic review of security, taking into account any material changes to the project or the risk of environmental damage, and the adjustment of the amount of security as a result of such reviews. 66

In association with the proposal of Article 2 as set out above, Article 3 of the Agreement provides:

If the NWB does not impose licence conditions that provide for the matters referred to in Article 2 and that are acceptable to KIA and the Minister, this Agreement shall cease to be binding on the parties.

While noting that it is clearly the intention of the parties under the Agreement as set out in Article 2 and 3, to ensure that the Meliadine Security Management Agreement is taken into account by the Board and is reflected in any Licence that is issued, the Board reminds the parties that the negotiated terms and conditions of a security management agreement are not binding on the Board and do not fetter the Board's discretion to include in a licence any terms and conditions that it considers appropriate.⁶⁷ Similarly, the terms of a security management agreement are also considered by the Board, in the exercise of the Board's discretion to fix the amount of security, but the Board is also required to fix the amount of security to be held under a given licence in accordance with the requirements of the NWNSRTA and s. 10 of the Nunavut Waters Regulations. Therefore, where appropriate and to the extent of the Board's jurisdiction and authority under the NWNSRTA and the Nunavut Waters Regulations to do so, the Board has considered the matters under Article 2 of the Meliadine Security Management Agreement as well as submissions from the KIA, AEM and INAC in setting the terms and conditions of the Licence.

KIA

In its submissions, KIA recommended that the Board take into account the Meliadine Security Management Agreement. However, KIA qualifies its recommendation as being conditional⁶⁸ on the following:

⁶⁶ Meliadine Security Management Agreement, page 3, Article 2

⁶⁷ Section 70(1) of the *NWNSRTA*.

⁶⁸KIA, K. Gilson NWB Public Hearing File No. 2AM-MEL----Agnico, Transcripts of the Public Hearing, February 11, 2016, volume 2, pages 129-130



- that there is a reclamation plan that includes a reclamation cost estimate of the measures needed to prevent, counteract, mitigate, and remedy adverse effects on persons, property, and the environment:
- that the Applicant will not perform work in respect of which security has not been maintained;
- that the Applicant be required to provide evidence to the Water Board and to the Minister within 10 days after it provides security to the Kivalliq Inuit Association showing the amount, form, nature, and conditions of the security, and that it has been received by the Kivalliq Inuit Association;
- that the Proponent or the Applicant provide evidence to the Water Board and to the Kivalliq Inuit Association within 10 days after furnishing security to the Minister showing the amount, form, nature, and conditions of the security, and that it has been received by the Minister; and,
- that there be a periodic review of the security which would take into account material changes to the project or the risk of environmental damage and the adjustment of the amount of security as a result.

INAC

INAC submitted the issue of over-bonding had been an ongoing concern and a subject of discussions by the Nunavut Water Board, INAC, various other parties, including Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and representatives from the three regional Inuit Associations, including KIA. To facilitate the discussions, the Nunavut Securities Working Group was struck to allow the parties to reach consensus on key principles to address the security issues by achieving an agreed-upon reclamation plan and one agreed-upon reclamation cost estimate for any one project. ⁶⁹

In this case, INAC submitted that the Agreement is an appropriate approach for the Meliadine Gold Project as this is a proposed project on Inuit-Owned Lands.⁷⁰ The Department also indicated that the Agreement would:

...allow both the Kivalliq Inuit Association and the Crown to collaborate on reclamation, if we were ever put in a position where we had to undertake it. It would also allow us to jointly fund any needed reclamation while not fettering the Minister's discretion under the water legislation.⁷¹

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⁶⁹ INAC, K. Costello NWB Public Hearing File No. 2AM-MEL----Agnico, Transcripts of the Public Hearing, February 11, 2016, volume 2, pages 137-138

⁷⁰ INAC, K. Costello NWB Public Hearing File No. 2AM-MEL----Agnico, Transcripts of the Public Hearing, February 11, 2016, volume 2, page 136

⁷¹ INAC, K. Costello NWB Public Hearing File No. 2AM-MEL----Agnico, Transcripts of the Public Hearing, February 11, 2016, volume 2, page 138, lines 8-13



INAC also noted that its support of the Agreement was based on the fact that it had reviewed and was satisfied with AEM's proposed Closure and Reclamation Plan.⁷²

Ultimately, INAC submitted that the parties had met their objectives for this Project in that they have entered into the Meliadine Security Agreement and requested that the Board take the Agreement into account.

AEM

In its submissions AEM confirmed its agreement and support of the submissions provided by KIA and INAC requesting the Board to take into account the Meliadine Security Management Agreement.

Form of Security

Pursuant to s. 76(1) of the NWNSRTA and s. 10(3) of the *Nunavut Waters Regulations* S.O.R./2013-69:

10(3) Security must be in the form of

- (a) a promissory note guaranteed by a bank listed in Schedule I or II to the <u>Bank Act</u> and made payable to the Receiver General;
- (b) a certified cheque drawn on a bank listed in Schedule I or II to the <u>Bank Act</u> and made payable to the Receiver General;
- (c) a performance bond approved by the Treasury Board for the purposes of paragraph (c) of the definition "security deposit" in section 2 of the *Government Contracts Regulations*;
- (d) an irrevocable letter of credit from a bank listed in Schedule I or II to the *Bank Act*; or
- (e) a cash payment.

Amount of Security

The reclamation cost estimate for the Type "A" Water Licence provided in the Preliminary Closure and Reclamation Plan of the Water Licence Application was prepared using the RECLAIM method, which is in accordance with the *Mine Site Reclamation Policy for Nunavut*.⁷³

⁷³ According to the *Policy:*

⁷² INAC, K. Costello, NWB Public Hearing File No. 2AM-MEL----Agnico, Transcripts of the Public Hearing, February 11, 2016, volume 2, page 134



INAC

INAC referred to its written submissions filed with the Board on October 6, 2015 and October 9, 2015, providing the review of AEM's Closure Cost Estimate and a closure costs estimate prepared by INAC independently using the RECLAIM model. Overall, INAC submitted that the difference between INAC's independent estimate and AEM's estimate was less than or equal to 5%. This difference was attributable to the additional engineering, other direct costs, and contingency to be accounted for in the event that INAC may have to undertake the reclamation of the site through a third party. The submissions of the site through a third party.

INAC noted that since the TM/PHC held by the Board in October 14, 15, 2015, the parties had been in discussions and subsequently reached an agreement that the "49.5 [million] reclamation value presented by INAC was an acceptable estimate at this point."

In particular, INAC submitted that the Agreement represents the consensus of the parties to:

split reclamation cost estimate for the undertaking, which is currently estimated at [\$49,554,667] dollars, so approximately 49.5 million. It would split it 50 percent with the Minister under the water licence and 50 percent with the Kivalliq Inuit Association under their production lease.⁷⁷

In this regard, INAC recommended that the Board accept the approach proposed by the Agreement, including setting the amount of security to be required under the Licence at 50% of the agreed-upon reclamation cost estimate of approximately 49.5 million dollars.⁷⁸

KIA

The recognized methodology for calculating reclamation costs, for the purposes of financial security, should be the RECLAIM or some other appropriate model. Consideration should be given to alternate or innovative forms of security, such as mine reclamation trusts, provided they meet certain criteria that protect the government's interests and objectives.

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⁷⁴ Ian Parsons, B.Sc Regional Coordinator, AANDC to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing, NWB; Re: Update to AANDC's Review of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM) Application for a New Type A Water Licence for its Proposed Meliadine Gold Mine. Licence No. 2AM-MEL----, ARCADIS Review of AEM's Closure Cost Estimate and AEM's Response dated October 6, 2015; AANDC Review of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd's Type "A" New Water Licence Application-ARCADIS Independent Closure Cost Estimate dated October 9, 2015

⁷⁵ INAC, K. Costello, NWB Public Hearing File No. 2AM-MEL----Agnico, Transcripts of the Public Hearing, February 11, 2016, volume 2, page 135

⁷⁶ INAC, K. Costello, NWB Public Hearing File No. 2AM-MEL----Agnico, Transcripts of the Public Hearing, February 11, 2016, volume 2, pages 135-136

⁷⁷ INAC, K. Costello, NWB Public Hearing File No. 2AM-MEL----Agnico, Transcripts of the Public Hearing, February 11, 2016, volume 2, page 138, lines 19-26

⁷⁸ K. Costello, INAC, NWB Public Hearing File No., Transcripts of the Public Hearing, February 11, 2016, volume 2, page 140



Regarding the amount of security, KIA submitted that the ongoing discussions between KIA, AEM and INAC had led the parties to an agreement on a security estimate in the global amount of \$49,554,667.00.⁷⁹ KIA further confirmed that all three parties have agreed that this amount was sufficient for completing the required reclamation as outlined in AEM Closure and Reclamation Plan.⁸⁰

AEM

AEM confirmed its agreement and support of the submissions provided by KIA and INAC requesting the Board to take into account the Meliadine Security Management Agreement.

Security Posted under Current Type B Licences

Additionally, as mentioned in the Section 1 of this decision, and in the discussion of the Part A (Scope) of the Licence, the NWB had previously issued four Type B licences associated with various aspects of this Project to AEM covering exploration and advanced exploration, all-weather access road, and pre-development activities. With respect to two of the four existing licences, AEM was required to post security with the Minister of INAC in the total amount of \$1,692,000, specifically \$639,000 under Type "B" Licence 2BB-MEL1424, and \$1,053,000 under Type "B" Licence 8BC-MEL1416.

As noted in the discussion under Part A (Scope) of this Licence, if, upon issuance of the Type "A" Licence there are activities under the Type B Licences that are incorporated into the scope of the new Type "A" Licence, AEM may apply to cancel or amend those Licences. In addition, cancellation may be initiated by the Board. As indicated by INAC at the Public Hearing, for existing Type "B" Licences that can be cancelled once the Type "A" Licence has been issued, the security posted under the existing Type B licences be returned to AEM as follows:

... it is my understanding that the activities that are currently within those "B" licences are rolled up in this Type "A" licence application, and pending approval of the Type "A" licence and confirmation with our inspectors, we would be recommending that we would be okay with the security being released that's attached to those licences.⁸¹

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⁷⁹ Submission from Nunavut Tungavik Inc. and Kivalliq Inuit Association, to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Reclaim Cost Estimate for the Meliadine Gold Project, December 23, 2015

⁸⁰ Submission from Nunavut Tungavik Inc. and Kivalliq Inuit Association, to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Reclaim Cost Estimate for the Meliadine Gold Project, December 23, 2015

⁸¹ INAC, K. Costello, NWB Public Hearing File No. 2AM-MEL----Agnico, Transcripts of the Public Hearing, February 10, 2016, volume 1, page 110



However, given that the scope of activities that may remain under the existing Type "B" Licences and outside the scope of the Type "A" Licence, it is unclear to the Board at this time, and the extent to which specific security held under the Type "B" Licences can be released is dependent upon direction from INAC's Inspectors, the Board has not reduced the amount of security to be held under the Type "A" Licence by that which is held under the existing Type "B" Licences. Although the Board recognizes that this may result in AEM having overlapping security where the scope of the existing Type "B" Licences overlap with the scope of the new Type "A" Licence, once the Type "B" Licences are cancelled or amended to reflect the reduced scope, INAC may release this security as indicated at the Public Hearing cited above.

Conclusions of the Board Regarding the Amount of Security to be Held Under the Licence

Reflecting the jurisdiction of the Board under s. 76 of the NWNSRTA and s. 10 of the Nunavut Waters Regulations and the new requirement of s. 76.1(3) of the NWNSRTA, the Board has taken into account the evidence regarding reclamation liability during the technical review of the Application and at the Public Hearing and the Agreement between INAC, KIA, and AEM provided to the Board after the Public Hearing and before the close of the Hearing Record in determining the amount of the security required to be furnished and maintained by the applicant, licensee or prospective assignee under the Licence.

Reflecting the status of information available at the Public Hearing, the Board accepts that security in the global amount of \$49,555,000, as proposed by INAC and accepted by KIA and AEM as required for reclamation of the activities and undertakings included in the scope of the Application, constitutes the appropriate amount of security to reclaim the undertaking. However, as set out in the Meliadine Security Management Agreement, Article 6, Item 1, the Board recognizes that only 50% of the global amount, being \$24,777,500 will be held under the Type "A" Water Licence 2AM-MEL1631.

The total amount the Board has determined the Licensee is required to post to meet the reclamation liability associated with the activities to be undertaken under the Type "A" Water Licence is \$24,777,500.

Periodic Review of the Amount of Security

Under the *NWNSRTA* the Board may include conditions of a licence where it considers this appropriate. Most specifically, s. 76(1) of the *Act* gives the Board the authority to establish terms



or conditions relating to the furnishing or maintaining of security. As always, the Board's authority must be exercised in light of its objects, stipulated under s. 35 of the Act. 82

AEM, INAC and the KIA submit through the Meliadine Security Management Agreement that if a Type "A" Water Licence is issued to the Applicant, such a licence should include conditions permitting the Parties to review and amend the security being held under the Type "A" Water Licence. In particular, paragraph (h) of Article 2 in the Meliadine Security Management Agreement proposes: "the periodic review of security, taking into account any material changes to the project or the risk of environmental damage, and the adjustment of the amount of security as a result of such reviews." ⁸³

Also regarding the adjustment of the amount of security, KIA submitted as follows:

And with respect to the adjustment, the parties have reached an understanding that the periodic review of the security [sic] would occur as often as, first of all, one year following commencement of commercial production of the Meliadine project, and there is a definition of "commercial production", which means that it will be deemed to have commenced when the Applicant declares the date that operating levels at the Meliadine project, as intended by Agnico Eagle Mines' management at the project, have been reached, including operational commissioning of major mine and plant components and the achievement of operating results consistently for 30 days, continuous days of production.

Secondly, it may be reviewed at the time of approval by this Board of the final closure plan for the project; and, finally, that it be reviewed at the time this Board approves any amendment to the Type "A" Water Licence. 84

With respect to provisions requiring the periodic review of the amount of security to be held under the Licence, the Board has provided terms and conditions that indicate there are three key circumstances that may trigger the Board's review and potential adjustment to the amount of security held under the Licence. Firstly, if the Board receives notification that the Meliadine Security Management Agreement has or will be terminated or has or will otherwise fail, or that there will be a material change to the Security Management Agreement that may affect the amount of security that should be to held under the Licence, the Board may, upon providing

The objects of the Board are to provide for the conservation and utilization of waters in Nunavut, except in a national park, in a manner that will provide the optimum benefit from those waters or the residents of Nunavut in particular and Canadians in general.

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⁸² Section 35 of the *NWNSRTA* states:

⁸³ Meliadine Security Management Agreement, page 3, Article 2

⁸⁴ KIA, K. Gilson, NWB Public Hearing File No. 2AM-MEL----Agnico, Transcripts of the Public Hearing, February 11, 2016, volume 2, page 131



notice under the NWNSRTA, initiate a review and amendment to the terms and conditions in the Licence relating to security. Secondly, upon the Board receiving notification and supporting evidence that there is a substantial change in the Project or risk of environmental damage that could result in a material change to the amount of security that should be held under the Licence (including, but not limited to, updates to the reclamation cost estimate arising from unexpected changes or modifications of the Project activities), the Board or parties to the Meliadine Security Management Agreement may initiate an amendment to the relevant terms and conditions in relation to security to be held under the Licence. Thirdly, for specific periodic reviews of security, the Board has determined that the reclamation cost estimate shall be updated and submitted for the Board's review and consideration of potential amendments to the security requirements under the Licence within one year of starting Commercial Operation, and also again when an updated reclamation cost estimate is included within the Final Closure and Reclamation Plan.

Part D: Conditions Applying to Construction

The scope of the Application includes the construction of facilities and infrastructure at Meliadine Mine Site and Itivia Satellite Site to support the Project. Proposed facilities and infrastructure under the scope of the Application include the following: mill, underground mine access Portal 2, open pits, offices, warehouses, accommodation facilities, explosives production and storage facility, access roads including the all-weather access road between Meliadine Site and Rankin Inlet, water management facilities (freshwater intake, channels or ditches, collection ponds, retention dikes and berms, sewage treatment plant, surface and underground water treatment plants, diffuser), waste management facilities (landfill, landfarm, incinerator), ore and waste rock storage facilities, tailings storage facility, bulk fuel storage facilities at Mine Site and at Itivia Site, borrow pit and quarry sites and more. The Proponent has indicated that prior to the construction of any facility or infrastructure under the scope of the Licence, it will submit to the Board for review, for-construction drawings in advance and as-built drawings after construction.

Based on the information provided in the Application, representation made by various intervening parties and the NWB's review, the Board has included conditions requiring the Proponent to submit to the Board for review, at least sixty (60) days prior to the construction phase of the project, for-construction drawings, stamped and signed by a qualified professional, for all relevant facilities/infrastructure designed to contain, withhold, divert or retain waters. These shall be accompanied with detailed report(s) to include design rational, requirements, criteria, parameters, construction methods, and monitoring summary and more.



Subsequent to the construction phase of the project, within ninety (90) days of the completion of each structure designed to contain, withhold, divert or retain waters, the Proponent is required under the terms and conditions in the Licence to submit a Construction Summary Report including as-built drawings and designs as well as documentation of field decisions that deviated from original plans.

The Board has included conditions requiring the Proponent to undertake geotechnical inspections of facilities/infrastructure designed and constructed to withhold, divert or retain waters in accordance with set intervals as well as adherence to the Canadian *Dam Association Safety Guidelines* for relevant infrastructure/facilities.

The Board has included Effluent quality limits for runoff and/or discharge from drainage management systems, during Construction/Operation of any facilities and infrastructure associated with this project, including laydown areas and the All-weather Access Road, where flow may directly or indirectly enter a Water body.

Effluent quality limits are also included for water to be released into Meliadine Lake during dewatering of four lakes/ponds. All effluent, exceeding the Effluent quality limits shall be treated prior to release into Meliadine Lake or released to the mine contact water final collection pond CP1.

Part E: Conditions Applying to Water Use and Management

Section 11 of the NWNSRTA states "... no person shall use, or permit the use of, water in Nunavut except in accordance with the conditions of a licence."

Subject to a requirement that AEM maximize to the greatest practical extent, the use of reclaim water from the tailings storage facility for use in the mill and to report to the Board annually the volume of reclaimed water obtained from the Tailings Storage Facility for process water, the Board approves the Applicant's request to obtain fresh water from Meliadine Lake using a fresh water intake and associated structures for domestic camp use, mining and milling and associated uses. The Board also authorizes the Applicant to obtain fresh water from Meliadine Lake for the flooding or re-watering of mined-out open pits during the closure phase of Project.

The total volume of water for all purposes obtained from Meliadine Lake shall not exceed 62,000 cubic meters during construction and 318,000 cubic meters per year during operation phases. The total volume of water transferred from Meliadine Lake to open pits shall not exceed 4,000,000



cubic meters per year during closure phase inclusive of any amounts required for ongoing operations through closure.

The Board requires AEM to equip all water intake hoses with a screen of an appropriate mesh size to ensure that fish are not entrained, and withdraw water at a rate such that fish do not become impinged on the screen.

Water Balance and Water Quality Modeling

The Proponent included within the Water Management Plan a mine site water balance model and its results, and a mine site water quality model and its results. Golder Associated Ltd. (Golder) was retained to conduct mine site water quality predictions for operation and post-closure using the existing water balance model as provided by AEM in December 2014. The report describes the mine site components and mine operation procedures relevant to the water quality predictions; provides a description of the input values and geochemical controls specified in the model; summarizes all assumptions made in the modelling process; and presents a summary of predicted mine contact water quality for contact water ponds during operations and post-closure. Golder states the following limitations to the accuracy of the water quality model:

The actual concentration of cyanide and cyanide by-products (ammonia, nitrate, cyanate, and thiocyanate) in process water will be defined by the metallurgical process, the cyanide detoxification plant, and the degree of process water recycling achieved during operation. These factors will affect parameter concentrations in the water fraction (assumed 5%) discharged with tailings that can be transferred to runoff and to a CP. Similarly, explosives by-products (ammonia and nitrate) in ore stockpiles, the open pit and the WRSF's will depend on the efficiency of explosives management and climate (presence of water) at the mine during operation. Ammonia and nitrate concentrations derived from explosives can be highly variable as observed at other mine sites in the Arctic (i.e., Diavik, Ekati, Meadowbank). The concentrations of arsenic, cyanide products, and thiosalts at CP3 and CP1 will depend on the ability to achieve dry stack tailings. If tailings are discharged at higher water content than intended and more tailing process water is



collected in CP3, the concentration of these parameters is likely to be higher than predicted.⁸⁵

It is also indicated that the following constituents were not modelled:

- Cyanide degradation products (cyanate, thiocyanate, and thiosalts) are not modelled; their concentration in process water and in CP3 will depend on the efficiency of the cyanide detoxification process, yet to be tested;
- Saline underground inflows are not considered in the model. It is assumed that these waters will be managed separately from other site contact waters.
- Total suspended solids were not modelled but an evaluation of the effect of TSS in water to be discharged was completed.
- Mercury was not modelled because all static leaching tests were below the analytical detection limits (which is lower than the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment [CCME] aquatic life water quality guidelines [CCME-WQG], verified in November 2014). Thallium and silver were not modelled because most test results were below analytical detection limits with few exceptions. When detected, thallium and silver were below CCME-aquatic life criteria.

In its technical review comment of October 5, 2015, ECCC stated:

Modeling water quality incorporates various areas of uncertainty, which must be allowed for when relying on model outputs. Examples would include; the effect of blasting practices on ammonia loss rates and subsequent concentrations in seepage and runoff; the recycling of process water would result in concentration of contaminants (this has not been accounted for in the model); tailings water content would affect concentrations of arsenic, cyanide products and thiosalts reporting to CP1. Modeling was done based on no groundwater being in contact with the surface waters; addition of mine-water would affect predictions for ammonia, major ions, and suspended solids. 86

The ECCC and NWB are satisfied that the Applicant has committed to "identify thresholds for contaminant levels in CP1 that would trigger mitigation measures such as source control or implementation of further treatment for CP1 discharges, and that thresholds should be included in

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⁸⁵ Mine Site Water Quality Predictions, Meliadine Gold Project: Golder Associates Ltd, April 2015

⁸⁶ Environment Canada's Technical Comments on the Type "A" Water Licence Application for the Meliadine Gold Project, October 5, 2015.



an adaptive management plan of subsequent version of the Environmental Management and Protection Plan (EMPP)".

At the same time the Board believes that periodically re-running the water quality model and updating predictions with using the current monitoring data for total metals and other parameters is important in order to inform both operational and closure planning.

The Board requires that during closure phase the predicted water quantity and quality within the pits be compared to the measured water quantity and quality to ensure that pit water quality meets CCME limits and ultimately protect aquatic biota, prior to breaching water retention structures.

As AEM is still considering several options for the long-term management of groundwater, the Board requires that the Applicant submit to the Board for approval, at least six (6) months prior to any groundwater discharge, a Groundwater Management Plan that will take into account all questions raised during the review of the Application.

The Board further requires AEM to carry out weekly inspections of all water management structures during periods of flow, to maintain records for review upon the request of an Inspector, and include this information in the annual update of Water Management Plan.

The Applicant is also required to provide at least thirty (30) days' notice to the NWB and Inspector prior to the start of re-flooding of each pit.

Part F: Conditions Applying to Waste Disposal and Management

The Board has included conditions in the Licence to ensure that the main types of waste and/or effluent generated by the Project do not negatively impact the receiving fresh water environment. The following lists the wastes, facilities and/or activities that are within the NWB's mandate and are included within the scope of the Licence:

- Tailings Storage Facility (TSF);
- Waste Rock and Overburden Storage Facilities (WRSF);
- Landfarm:
- Landfill:
- Meliadine Mine Site and Itivia Site Fuel Storage and Containment Facilities;
- Sewage; and
- Underground Contact Water or Groundwater.



Tailings Storage Facility (TSF)

Tailings will be placed and stored as dry stacked tailings within the TSF that is located on an area of high ground located between the proposed mill and east of Lake B7. The TSF will therefore be constructed on land and will not cover any major waterbodies. AEM is of opinion that dry stacked tailings management is considered a better tailings management option as it has distinct environmental and closure advantages. The main arguments for dry stack tailings disposal over slurry tailings disposal methods are the environmental benefits and increased water conservation.

Tailings produced in the mill will be dewatered to a solids content of 85%. The dewatered tailings will be trucked to the TSF with haul trucks and spread and compacted (Dry Stacked) into thin lifts using a dozer and compactor. Site contact water from the TSF will be collected by the perimeter water management system located to the northwest and south of the TSF. Seepage and runoff water from the TSF during construction and operation phases will be managed via water diversion channels, water retention dikes and berms, and collected in water collection ponds. All contact water shall be collected in the final collection pond CP1 where the contact water will be treated by the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP) prior to discharge to receiving environment. According to Golder Associates Ltd (Golder)⁸⁷, based on the available testing results, the Tiriganiaq tailings will be non-acid generating.

Waste Rock and Overburden Storage Facilities

Three areas were identified for the combined storage of waste rock and overburden material (WRSF 1, WRSF 2 and WRSF 3) instead of the original four main areas proposed in the baseline study for the project during the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), to store the waste rock and overburden generated from mining of five deposits.

Seepage and runoff water from the WRSF during the construction and operation phases will be managed via water diversion channels, water retention dikes and berms, and collected in water collection ponds CP4, CP5, and CP6. The collected water will be pumped to CP1, where the contact water will be treated by the WTP prior to discharging to receiving environment.

AEM reports that "based on the waste rock geochemical testing findings, the waste rock from the Tiriganiaq deposit area is considered to be non-potentially acid generating (NPAG) and has a low potential for metal leaching (ML) in view of proposed waste rock management for the Project. Kinetic tests at various scales indicate that drainage water quality will meet Metal Mining Effluent

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⁸⁷ Golder, 2012f. SD 6-3 Geochemical Characterization of Waste Rock, Ore, Tailings and Overburden, Meliadine Gold Project, Nunavut, Canada. A Technical Report Submitted to Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. by Golder Associates, October 10, 2012.



Regulations (MMER) monthly mean effluent limits". It is also indicated that "waste rock and overburden have compatible geochemical characteristics such that these materials can be managed together in the same disposal facilities".

Landfarm

On-site storage and remediation has been established as the preferred method for treatment of light petroleum hydrocarbon contaminated soil that may be generated on the proposed mine site. The landfarm is designed to receive soils, rock, snow, and ice contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons and antifreeze. This will include light hydrocarbons such as diesel and gasoline, and also antifreeze, being treated in the landfarm. The landfarm will have an impervious liner to contain any leachate.

The landfarm is located just off the infrastructure pad, approximately 200 metres from CP1. The runoff water and snow melt within the footprint of the landfarm will be collected in a sump on the southwest side of the facility. The collected water from the sump will be pumped to an oil pretreatment plant, and then discharged into CP1, where the water will be further treated by the WTP prior to discharge to the receiving environment.

Landfill

A landfill will be required for the disposal of non-salvageable, non-hazardous, non-putrescible solid wastes from the construction, operation, and closure of the Project. No municipal facilities or services for waste disposal will be used.

The proposed landfill will be located within the WRSF 1 located to the southwest of the main mine infrastructure. It is indicated that "based on the topographical information, runoff and any seepage from the landfill will naturally flow to the partially drained Pond H13, and then diverted to CP1 via Channel 1".

Meliadine Mine Site and Itivia Site Fuel Storage and Containment Facilities

All water from Meliadine Mine Site Fuel Storage and Containment Facility's secondary containment area will be diverted and collected in CP1 where the water will be further treated by the WTP prior to discharge to the receiving environment.

The Board has included Effluent quality limits for the water that could be discharged onto land from the Itivia Site Fuel Storage and Containment Facility. Any proposed Effluent that exceeds



Effluent quality limits (tested prior to any discharge) shall be treated prior to release onto land or shall be transferred to CP1.

Sewage

Sewage will be collected from the camp and change-room (Mine and mill drys) facilities and pumped to a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). The objective of the STP is to treat sewage to an acceptable level for discharge to CP1 via a sewage water discharge pipeline.

The Board requires AEM to submit to the Board for approval, at least ninety (90) days prior to the construction/installation of facilities, an Operation and Maintenance Manual(s) for Wastewater Treatment Plant(s), including for STP that shall be prepared in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of an Operating and Maintenance Manual for Sewage and Solid Waste Disposal Facilities in the Northwest Territories* (1996).

<u>Underground Contact Water or Groundwater</u>

Contact water in the underground mine will be collected within underground sumps and treated to remove Total Suspended Solids (TSS) by the underground TSS removal plant. The underflow sludge water from underground TSS removal plant will be stored in underground excavation.

AEM is still considering several options for the long-term management of saline groundwater. This information shall be provided to the Board for approval within the Groundwater Management Plan to be submitted at least six (6) months prior to any groundwater discharge.

Mine Contact Water Discharge

As reported by the Applicant the contact water from the major mine infrastructure will be diverted and/or collected in the collection ponds, and the runoff water from the open pits will be collected by the sumps and then pumped to the designated water collection ponds (CP1 to CP6). Collected water in CP2 to CP6 will eventually be pumped to final collection pond CP1. Water collected in CP1 will be reused by the process plant and the excess water will be treated by the WTP prior to discharge via the diffuser to the receiving environment (Meliadine Lake). Metal Mining Effluent Regulations (MMER) are applicable to the Final Discharge Point prior to release of the Effluent into environment.

During technical review of Application, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) identified and proposed Effluent Quality Criteria (EQC) for parameters in addition to the MMER in order to include parameters which may vary due to modeling uncertainty and/or parameters



which carry environmental concerns. As indicated in AEM and ECCC's final submissions to the Board dated December 18, 2015 and December 24, 2015, respectively, AEM and ECCC agreed on the EQC in addition to the MMER parameters.

The Board has included EQC in addition to MMER limits for parameters as discussed and agreed by ECCC and Applicant at the final discharge point, end of pipe of WTP from CP1.

Discharge Criteria have also been included for the water that could be discharged onto land from the Itivia Site Fuel Storage and Containment Facility's secondary containment area.

Part G: Conditions Applying to Modifications

Although the provisions of Part G, Item 1 do allow the Applicant to carry out certain types of "modifications" (as defined in the Licence) without consent from the Board, it should be noted that pursuant to Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the NLCA and as set out in Part G, a proposed modification submitted under this Licence may require consideration by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) and a screening determination by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB). It is the responsibility of the Licensee to notify and consult with the NPC and the NIRB to ensure the requirements of the NLCA are met prior to submitting a notification of modification to the NWB under the Licence.

Further, modifications that do not meet the criteria of Part G, Item 1 may require written permission from the NWB. Without written consent from the NWB, the Applicant is not allowed to carry out modifications. Changes that do not meet the definition of modification under the Licence or the requirements of Part G would be considered to be amendments to the Licence. The Board requires that such changes would be subject to the requirements of the Type "A" water licence amendment process, including potentially requiring a public hearing before the Board considers the amendment as required under the NWNSRTA and the Nunavut Waters Regulations.

Part H: Conditions Applying to Emergency Response and Spill Contingency Planning

The development and implementation of measures to respond to spills and other emergencies are fundamental to ensuring that any potential undesired effects that Project activities might have on the receiving environment are prevented and/or minimized. Accordingly, the Applicant has submitted a Risk Management and Emergency Response Plan (RMERP) and a Spill Contingency Plan (SCP) as part of its Application.

The RMERP is divided in three main sections: 1) Risk Assessment and Management; 2) Accidents and Malfunctions; and 3) Emergency Response Plan (ERP). It is indicated that risk

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assessment and management are integrated in the Responsible Mining Management Systems. The risk assessment process is used to establish priorities for risk mitigation and control. A list of potential malfunctions or accidents associated with Project facilities and activities, including land or ice based, air and road transportation, occurring independent of, or associated with natural hazards, will be developed through the risk assessment process. The ERP addresses gold mining, processing, transportation, and related activities at the proposed mine site, as well as possible emergency scenarios that may occur off-site along the All-weather Access Road or at the Rankin Inlet Itivia Site. AEM stated and the Board agreed that the RMERP will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis throughout mine development, including construction, operations, and closure and, if necessary, post-closure.

The goal of the SCP is to minimize the impacts of spills by establishing predetermined lines of response and plans of action, and to protect the safety of workers and contractors in the event of a spill. Substances covered by the SCP include hydrocarbons products, liquid and solid hazardous substances, and compressed gas associated to the proposed Meliadine Site; Rankin Inlet Itivia land-based facilities; and All-weather Access Road and associated roads on-site and in between, including the Rankin Inlet bypass road.

The Board is satisfied with the Proponent's commitment to update the SCP Plan regularly to reflect any changes to Project specific protocols, teams, and management contact information.

Part I: Conditions Applying to General and Aquatic Effects Monitoring

As previously noted, s. 73 of the *NWNSRTA*⁸⁸ requires the NWB to set conditions at least as stringent as conditions prescribed by regulation pursuant to ss. 36(5) of the *Fisheries Act*. Furthermore, for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the licence or regulations, an Inspector designated by the Minister may inspect or examine works, waters or waste and exercise other powers according to the *NWNSRTA*. ⁸⁹ For the purpose of monitoring, the NWB may include conditions in the licence regarding monitoring programs to be undertaken. ⁹⁰

The Environmental Management and Protection Plan (EMPP) provide the Proponent with an overarching direction to environmental and socio-economic management for the Project

Where the Board issues a licence in respect of any waters to which regulations made under subsection 36(5) of the *Fisheries Act* apply, any conditions in the licence relating to the deposit of waste in those waters shall be at least as stringent as the conditions prescribed by those regulations.

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 $^{^{88}}$ Section 73 of the NWNSRTA states:

⁸⁹ See ss. 85-94 of the *NWNSRTA*.

⁹⁰ See s. 70(1)(c) of the *NWNSTRA*.



throughout its life (i.e., across all Project phases). The EMPP encompasses a suite of Project specific mitigations and monitoring and/or management plans that set out the Project's standards and requirements for different areas of environmental and socio-economic management.

AEM indicates that Environmental monitoring, for the purposes of the EMPP, will consist of three forms, these being:

- 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 Applicant. This type of monitoring provides data for decision making without obligation to report verification monitoring results, although some monitoring locations and these results can 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 schedule. It covers all types of monitoring (i.e., geotechnical, lake levels, etc.). This monitoring is subject to compliance assessment to confirm sampling was carried out using established protocols, included quality assurance/quality control provisions.

The Meliadine Project's Regulated discharge monitoring program (Final Discharge Point MEL-04) is based on MMER requirements, which includes characterization of total cyanide and toxicity testing and stipulates standard decision criteria for management actions. Additional Effluent Quality Criteria (EQC) are included by the Board at the Final Discharge Point as recommended by ECCC and agreed to by AEM. It should be noted that monitoring station MEL-01 is now referred to as MEL-04 in the Licence, in keeping consistency with the NWB's identification throughout all licences issued, where station XXX-01 is reserved for the fresh water supply. Therefore, the Final Discharge Point, as identified in the application submission has been given the identification MEL-04 in the Licence. This change should be noted by the Licensee and the appropriate changes/references made in the next revision of monitoring plans for the Project.

The Licensee shall implement the Waste Rock Storage Facilities' and Tailings Storage Facility's Thermal Monitoring Program detailed in the EMMP and in the Mine Waste Management Plan.



The Board agrees that at the closure phase of the Project, closure criteria for breaching of pit lake dikes will be based on appropriate standards in place at that time, such as the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) *Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life*.

The Board acknowledges that the EMPP is not a static document, and will be updated on a periodic basis as site and external conditions change and as knowledge is gained by the Applicant. The Board requires that an updated EMPP be submitted for the Board approval at least ninety (90) days prior to the start of Operations to reflect all changes in operations and/or technology and to take into account commitments made with respect to submissions received during the technical review of the Application including identifying thresholds for contaminant levels in CP1 and mitigation measures such as source control or implementation of further treatment for CP1 as requested by ECCC and agreed by AEM.

As a requirement of the Type "A" water licensing process, an Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) Design Plan for the Project was developed "through consultation with communities, stakeholders and regulators. It is an integrated monitoring program study design and is harmonized with the Environmental Effects Monitoring (EEM) requirement of the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations (MMER)".

It is indicated that "two distinct programs are proposed for the AEMP: the Meliadine Lake study and the Peninsula Lakes study with the design dictated by Project design, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ), consultation, and regulatory requirements".

The Meliadine Lake study was designed around the key aspects of EEM requirements (e.g., number of stations per area, sample sizes, measurement endpoints and supporting variables), as Meliadine Lake will receive direct effluent discharge. The core components of the Meliadine Lake study are water quality, sediment quality, benthic invertebrate communities, and fish. A targeted plankton study is also included to investigate the potential for plankton monitoring. For the Meliadine Lake study, up to three within-lake reference areas are included in the design.

The Peninsula Lakes will not receive direct effluent discharges, thus the study was designed to detect potential indirect effects (i.e., aerial deposition and physical alteration of watersheds). The core component of the Peninsula Lakes study is the water quality.

In its technical review comments of October 5, 2016, the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) indicated that "the fish tissue baseline report shall be updated to include an evaluation of how the



fish tissue data compares with the historical data, and discuss any changed predictions of project impacts presented in the FEIS should newer data diverge from historical data".

The KIA also recommended re-categorizing the Monitoring Program Stations MEL-05, MEL-06 and MEL-07 as general aquatic monitoring stations so that they are evaluated against established water quality guidelines or effluent quality criteria and are subject to compliance. AEM has committed to include MEL-05, MEL-06 and MEL-07 in the annual reports for review by regulators and stakeholders. Samples collected from these three sites will be compared to CCME water quality guidelines or baseline concentrations for those naturally exceeding CCME guidelines for the protection of aquatic life. If samples indicate water quality concentrations are within a percent of background concentrations (as to be proposed by AEM) or approaching CCME where appropriate, AEM's low action level response will be:

- To re-categorize the specific location of concern as a General Aquatic Monitoring Station,
- Include the location as an additional station in the Aquatic Environment Monitoring Program,
- Investigate the source of contamination, and
- Mitigate the source to prevent further contamination of the water body.

KIA expressed concerns related to "insufficient monitoring locations for effluent discharges to Meliadine Lake near the diffuser". In response, AEM proposed 5 sites in the near-field exposure area as part of the AEMP, and has committed to collect water quality data from three triangulated stations at approximately 100 metres from the diffuser during discharge periods for two years once discharge starts. AEM stated:

> Three 'diffuser' stations will be sampled on the same schedule as the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program stations for the two years target program; sampling during the under-ice period will be done only if ice conditions are safe and then monthly during the discharge period.⁹¹

AEM has committed to take into account KIA's recommendations and include the requested information in the next update of AEMP.

In its technical review comments of October 5, 2015, KIA also recommended that the Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) Plan be updated to include detection limits for parameter

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⁹¹ Type A Water Licence, No. 2AM-MEL Pre-Hearing conference commitment 10 and Technical Comments from the Kivalliq Inuit Association, response from Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited, December 21, 2015.



suits associated with different monitoring programs. Subsequently, AEM submitted an updated QA/QC Plan. The Board requires that the Applicant review the QA/QC Plan annually and modify the Plan as necessary.

Part I: Conditions Applying to Abandonment, Reclamation and Closure

The Board requires all Type "A" water licence applicants to prepare an Interim and eventually a Final Closure and Reclamation Plan in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Closure and Reclamation of Advanced Mineral Exploration and Mine Sites in the NWT (2013)* (2013 Guidelines) and consistent with the INAC *Mine Site Reclamation Policy for Nunavut, 2002*⁹² (Policy). As established in the Shear Diamonds Licence Renewal Decision⁹³:

The Board's approach to reclamation reflects the four main objectives outlined in the Policy:

The Mine Site Reclamation Policy for Nunavut serves four main objectives:

- Ensure the impact of mining on the environment and human health and safety is minimized;
- Reduce the environmental liability that falls to government to the greatest extent possible;
- Provide industry and the public with a clear signal of the government's expectations; and
- Build positive and supportive relationships with the new regulatory authorities coming into operation in the North⁹⁴.

With respect to the specific components of the plans, the Board adopts the approach put forward in the Guidelines that recognizes that there are three stages in the development of a Closure and Reclamation Plan (CRP). The first stage involves the preparation of a Preliminary Closure and Reclamation Plan that is typically prepared as part of the environmental assessment of the project that demonstrates "how the mine site is proposed to be reclaimed and describes the likely residual risks to human health and the environment". The second stage involves the development of one or more Interim Closure and Reclamation Plans through the operating life of the mine, which builds on the Preliminary CRP, and is updated to reflect significant changes to the mine plan or key milestones in terms of the mine life.

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⁹² Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, (Ottawa: Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, 2002) <u>Mine Site Reclamation Policy for Nunavut</u>, available on-line: https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100036042/1100100036044

⁹³ Nunavut Water Board, Reasons for Decision: 2AM-JER1119 Type A – Licence Renewal at pp. 66-68.

⁹⁴ Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, (Ottawa: Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, 2002), Mine Site Reclamation Policy for Nunavut, p. 2.



As stated in the Guidelines:

The general purpose of the Interim CRP is to update preceding plans according to the current mine operating plan, updated or renewed community values, or advances in mine reclamation technology. Interim Reclamation Plans provide conceptual detail on the reclamation of mine components which will not be closed until near the end of the mining operations, and operational detail for components which are to be progressively reclaimed earlier in the mine life. The Interim CRP should include increased detail and more specific closure criteria regarding reclamation components as these become available and as those areas of the mine are developed (e.g. rock piles that are completed or reclamation test studies that have been conducted).

The third stage involves the preparation of a Final CRP that should be provided and approved before a scheduled permanent closure or as soon as is practical after an unplanned closure. According to the Guidelines "the general purpose of the Final CRP is to provide complete details, usually for regulatory approval, regarding the proposed reclamation activities such that they can be subsequently implemented."

AEM is required to submit an Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan within six (6) months of Commercial Operation that must consider all of the mine related components, the All-weather Access Road and Itivia Site facilities. A Final Closure and Reclamation Plan will be required at least twelve (12) months prior to the closure of the mine.

The recommendations provided by parties in their written submissions are generally contemplated within the Guidelines and therefore not specifically addressed as terms and conditions of the Licence unless otherwise stated in the Licence. The Board further encourages AEM to consider the submissions that have been made with respect to abandonment, reclamation, and closure in preparation of both the Interim and Final Closure and Reclamation Plans.

The Board has also included a requirement to notify the Board in writing, as soon as practically possible, of any intent to enter or at the very least sixty (60) days prior to entering into a Care and Maintenance Phase. A Care and Maintenance Plan shall also be submitted to the Board within thirty (30) days of notification, to detail the Licensee's plans for maintaining compliance with the Terms and Conditions of the Licence.

Suggested closure and reclamation planning and reporting requirements through the life of a mine are outlined in the document *Mine Site Reclamation Guidelines for the Northwest Territories*



(2007) or (the 2007 Guidelines)⁹⁵. As set out in the Guidelines, after the permanent closure of a mine and when reclamation activities are finalized, a post-closure monitoring period is recommended. Following this initial post-closure monitoring period, the post-closure monitoring may be extended at the discretion of regulators. The Guidelines note that this longer-term post-closure monitoring will likely be required for projects, where some individual components may remain at site in perpetuity, such as mine tailings, underground structures, etc., which must be further monitored to ensure stability and full reclamation.

Schedules A through J

Schedules provide instructive detail to the conditions appearing in more general terms in the main body of the Licence and are spelled out in this format for greater clarity and as an aid to interpretation for the Licensee. Except for Schedule A, the Schedules provide, if needed, specific requirements for plans or reports to be submitted to the Board.

If the Board subsequently determines that an item in any of the Schedules requires revision in order to better reflect the intent and objectives of the Licence, the Board may at its discretion, and upon consulting and providing written notice to the Licensee and intervening parties, revise the Schedule. Unless the Board directs otherwise, such revision may not necessarily be considered as an "Amendment" to the Licence.

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⁹⁵ Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, (Yellowknife: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 2007) available on-line: http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-NWT/STAGING/texte-text/msr_1320177195268_eng.pdf.



APPENDIX A - Agendas for Public Hearing and Community Session

AGENDA PUBLIC HEARING

TYPE "A" WATER LICENCE APPLICATION NO. 2AM-MEL----February 10, 2016, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm, CST, Rankin Inlet Community Hall February 11, 2016, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm, CST, Rankin Inlet Community Hall

- 1. Opening Prayer
- 2. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson, which shall include the purpose of the Hearing and the scope of matters which will be considered by the Board
- 3. Introduction of the Board Members and staff
 - a. Application History
 - b. Identification and introduction of the Parties
 - c. Introduction of the Elders and their role in the Hearing
 - d. Introduction and identification of the persons, associations, agencies, etc., who have not submitted interventions but who have expressed a desire to speak at the Hearing
- 4. Identification of any Motions or any objections
- 5. Presentation by the Applicant
 - a. Questioning of the Applicant by Parties respecting the Applicant's presentation
 - b. Questioning by the Board staff and Panel Members
- 6. Presentation by Interveners
 - a. Questioning of Interveners by Parties
 - b. Questioning by the Board staff and Panel Members
- 7. Presentation by any other persons, associations, agencies, etc. who have advised the Chairperson that they wish to speak
 - a. Questioning of other persons, associations, agencies, etc. by Parties
 - b. Questions by the Board staff and Panel Members



- 8. Upon completion of presentations by all Parties, the Board will give the Applicant the opportunity to reply. Then all Parties will have the opportunity to make final closing statements taking into account matters raised at the Hearing
- 9. Closing Remarks by the Chairperson; and
- 10. Closing Prayer

AGENDA COMMUNITY SESSION

TYPE "A" WATER LICENCE APPLICATION NO. 2AM-MEL---- February 10, 2016, 7:00 pm -10:00 pm, CST, Rankin Inlet Community Hall

- 1. Opening Prayer;
- 2. Opening Remarks by the Chair;
- 3. Presentation by the Nunavut Water Board (NWB): Type "A" water licensing process;
- 4. Questions and/or comments from community members and other participants;
- 5. Presentation by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited on the Application before the Board for Type "A" Water Licence 2AM-MEL---- (20 Minutes);
- 6. Question and/or comments from community members and other participants;
- 7. Presentation from each intervening party pertaining to its mandate and role(s) in the water licensing process as well as an overview of their overall findings during the technical review (15 Minutes/Intervener);
- 8. Questions and/or comments from community members and other participants;
- 9. Closing Remarks; and
- 10. Closing Prayer.

APPENDIX B - Exhibit List

Exhibit	Exhibit Description	Date	From
1.	Hard Copy PowerPoint Presentation Meliadine Gold Project Final Public Hearing Type A Water Licence Application (Inuktitut)	February 10, 2016	Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
2.	Hard Copy PowerPoint Presentation Meliadine Gold Project Final Public Hearing Type A Water Licence Application (English)	February 10, 2016	Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
3.	Hard Copy PowerPoint Presentation Kivalliq Inuit Association Meliadine Type A Water License Community Meeting February 10-11, 2016 Rankin Inlet, NU (Inuktitut and English)	February 10, 2016	Kivalliq Inuit Association
4.	Hard Copy PowerPoint Presentation Kivalliq Inuit Association Meliadine Type A Water License Public Hearings February 10-11, 2016 Rankin Inlet, NU (Inuktitut and English)	February 10, 2016	Kivalliq Inuit Association
5.	Hard Copy PowerPoint Presentation Environment and Climate Change Canada's Presentation to the Nunavut Water Board Concerning Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Gold Project Type "A" Water Licence Application Nunavut Water Board Public Hearing Rankin Inlet, NU, February 10-11, 2016 (English)	February 10, 2016	Environment and Climate Change Canada
6.	Hard Copy PowerPoint Presentation Environment and Climate Change Canada's Presentation to the Nunavut Water Board Concerning Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Gold Project Type "A" Water Licence Application Nunavut Water Board Public Hearing	February 10, 2016	Environment and Climate Change Canada

Exhibit	Exhibit Description	Date	From
	Rankin Inlet, NU, February 10-11, 2016 (Inuktitut)		
7.	Hard Copy ECCC's Intervention to the NWB Respecting the Meliadine Gold Project – Phase 1 Type "A" Water Licence Application; Executive Summary (English)	February 10, 2016	Environment and Climate Change Canada
8.	Hard Copy ECCC's Intervention to the NWB Respecting the Meliadine Gold Project – Phase 1 Type "A" Water Licence Application; Executive Summary (Inuktitut)	February 10, 2016	Environment and Climate Change Canada
9.	Hard Copy Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Intervention Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. Water Licence Application #2AM-MEL Nunavut Water Board Public Hearing February 10 th and 11 th , 2016* (English/Inuktitut)	February 10, 2016	Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
10.	Hard Copy Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada Intervention Executive Summary Public Hearing New Water Licence Application Water Licence #2AM-MEL Proposed Meliadine Gold Mine Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. Kivalliq Region, Nunavut February 10 th , 2016* (English)	February 10, 2016	Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
11.	Hard Copy Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada Intervention Executive Summary Public Hearing New Water Licence Application Water Licence #2AM-MEL Proposed Meliadine Gold Mine Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. Kivalliq Region, Nunavut February 10 th , 2016* (Inuktitut)	February 10, 2016	Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Exhibit	Exhibit Description	Date	From
12.	Electronic PowerPoint Presentation Meliadine Gold Project Final Public Hearing Type A Water Licence Application (English)	February 10, 2016	Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
13.	Electronic PowerPoint Presentation Kivalliq Inuit Association Meliadine Type A Water License Community Meeting February 10-11, 2016 Rankin Inlet, NU (Inuktitut and English)	February 10, 2016	Kivalliq Inuit Association
14.	Electronic PowerPoint Presentation Environment and Climate Change Canada's Presentation to the Nunavut Water Board Concerning Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Gold Project Type "A" Water Licence Application Nunavut Water Board Public Hearing Rankin Inlet, NU, February 10-11, 2016 (English)	February 10, 2016	Environment and Climate Change Canada
15.	Electronic Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. Water Licence Application #2AM-MEL Nunaut Water Board Public Hearing February 10 th and 11 th , 2016* (English/Inuktitut)	February 10, 2016	Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
16.	Electronic Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Community Session Presentation New Type "A" Water Licence Application 2AM- MEL by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited for the Meliadine Gold Project	February 10, 2016	Nunavut Water Board

Exhibit	Exhibit Description	Date	From
17.	Hard Copy Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Community Session Presentation New Type "A" Water Licence Application 2AM- MEL by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited for the Meliadine Gold Project	February 10, 2016	Nunavut Water Board
18.	Electronic PowerPoint Presentation Kivalliq Inuit Association Meliadine Type A Water License Public Hearing February 10-11, 2016 Rankin Inlet, NU (Inuktitut and English)	February 10, 2016	Kivalliq Inuit Association
19.	Electronic Letter from Kimberley Gilson on behalf of the Kivalliq Inuit Organization re Meliadine Project License Application	February 17, 2016	Kivalliq Inuit Association
20.	Electronic Meliadine Security Management Agreement Between: Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) and Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (the proponent) and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs (the Minister) Signed by KIA on February 16, 2016 and the Deputy Minister of INAC on February 17, 2016	February 19, 2016	Kivalliq Inuit Association
21.	Electronic Meliadine Security Management Agreement Between: Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) and Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (the proponent) and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs (the Minister) Signed by KIA on February 16, 2016 and AEM. on February 16, 2016	February 19, 2016	Kivalliq Inuit Association

APPENDIX C - List of Acronyms

INAC	Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (former AANDC)	ᠰ᠋᠙᠆᠘ᢗᠰ᠘ᠳ᠘ᡀ᠙᠙᠘ᡩ᠘ᠳ᠘᠘᠙᠘᠙᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘᠘
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada (former EC)	4 ליליי $<$ כ־ 4 ליליי $<$ לייליי ($\zeta_{\rm P}$ ליליי EC- 4 לי)
GN	Government of Nunavut	₽₽\$¢₽\$₽
IR	Information Request	27^{5}
NIRB	Nunavut Impact Review Board	┲┩╬┖╶┪℅⋃⊂╙╊ _┍ q。 ₽⋃┞┾ _ぴ し。
NLCA	Nunavut Land Claims Agreement	ᠣᡆᡐᡃ᠋ᠮ᠂ᠣᡆĊᡃᢐ᠇᠋᠂᠌᠘ᡲᢉ᠌᠌᠌ᡗᠬ
NPC	Nunavut Planning Commission	_οσδ _Γ L <²σ∇ <u>γ</u> ς
NWB	Nunavut Water Board	ᢧᠣᡷᠮ᠘᠘ᠸᠬᡃᡷᡕ᠙᠐᠘ᢣᡒᠾ
РНС	Pre Hearing Conference	Δ
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids	、 よし よ め な 。 な な な な よ し よ し よ し よ し に

APPENDIX D - List of Submissions and Correspondence

Application Submissions:

The following documents were included with the Application:

- 1. Cover Letter and Application form dated May 2015;
- 2. \$30 application fees;
- 3. Type A Water Licence Application Main Application Document and;
- 4. The following Environmental Management Plans
 - o Meliadine Gold Project Mine Plan dated April 2015 (*Inuktitut & English*);
 - Screening Report Revised Project Design Type-A Water Licence Meliadine Gold Project, Nunavut dated April 2015;
 - o Meliadine Gold Project, Water Management Plan dated April 2015;
 - o Meliadine Gold Project, Mine Waste Management Plan dated April 2015;
 - o Meliadine Gold Project, Ore Storage Management Plan dated April 2015;
 - o Meliadine Gold Project, Spill Contingency Plan dated April 2015;
 - o Meliadine Gold Project, Landfarm Management Plan dated April 2015;
 - o Meliadine Gold Project, Roads Management Plan dated April 2015;
 - Meliadine Gold Project, Borrow Pits and Quarries Management Plan dated April 2015;
 - o Meliadine Gold Project, Landfill and Waste Management Plan dated April 2015;
 - o Meliadine Gold Project, Incineration Management Plan, including Dust Management Plan dated April 2015;
 - o Meliadine Gold Project, Hazardous Materials Management Plan dated April 2015;
 - o Meliadine Gold Project, Explosives Management Plan dated April 2015;
 - Meliadine Gold Project, Preliminary Closure and Reclamation Plan dated April 2015;
 - Meliadine Gold Project, Environmental Management and Protection Plan (EMPP) dated April 2015;
 - Meliadine Gold Project, Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) Design Plan 6513-REP-03 dated April 2015
 - o Meliadine Gold Project, Quality Assurance / Quality Control Plan dated April 2015 and December 22, 2015;
 - Meliadine Gold Project, Public Engagement and Consultation Baseline Report April 2015;
 - Meliadine Gold Project, Risk Management and Emergency Response Plan dated April 2015;

- o Reclaim Model dated September 2015;
- o Master Concordance Table Meliadine Type A Water Licence.

File Submissions & Correspondence:

- 1. Cover Letter and initial submission of application for new water licence 2AM-MEL---- by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited ("AEM") dated **May 15, 2015**.
- 2. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; AEM Reclaim 7.0 Meliadine Sept 15-Rev2.
- 3. Submitted on May 13, 2015 by Agnico-Eagle Mine Limited; Concordance Assessment, Mining and Milling Supplemental Information Guideline (SIG) for Mine Development (MM3) Meliadine Gold Project.
- 4. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; April 2015 Meliadine Gold Project, Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) Design Plan 6513-REP-03.
- 5. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Meliadine Gold Project, Borrow Pits and Quarries Management Plan. April 2015 Version 4 6513-MPS-04.
- 6. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited; Meliadine Gold Project, Environmental Management and Protection Plan (EMPP). April 2015 Version 4 6513-MPS-07.
- 7. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Meliadine Gold Project, Explosives Management Plan. April 2015 Version 4 6513-MPS-14.
- 8. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Meliadine Gold Project, Hazardous Materials Management Plan. April 2015 Version 4 6513-MPS-12.
- 9. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Incineration Management Plan. April 2015 Version 4 6513-MPS-01.
- 10. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Meliadine Gold Project, Landfarm Management Plan. April 2015 Version 1 6513-MPS-15.
- 11. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited; Meliadine Gold Project, Landfill and Waste Management Plan. April 2015 Version 4 6513-MPS-06.
- 12. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Meliadine Gold Project, Type A Water Licence Main Application Document. April 2015 Version 1.
- 13. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited; Meliadine Gold Project, Mine Plan. April 2015 Version 1 6513-MPS-10.

- 14. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Meliadine Gold Project, Mine Waste Management Plan. April 2015 Version 1 6513-MPS-09.
- 15. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Meliadine Gold Project, Ore Storage Management Plan. April 2015 6513-MPS-08.
- 16. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Meliadine Gold Project, Preliminary Closure and Reclamation Plan. April 2015 Version 1.0 6513-CRP-01.
- 17. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Meliadine Gold Project, Public Engagement and Consultation Baseline Report. April 2015 Version 4 6513-REP-02.
- 18. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Meliadine Gold Project, Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan. April 2015 Version 1 6513-QQY-01.
- 19. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Meliadine Gold Project, Risk Management and Emergency Response Plan. April 2015 Version 4 6513-RMM-01.
- 20. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Meliadine Gold Project, Roads Management Plan. April 2015 Version 4 6513-MPS-03.
- 21. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Screening Report-Revised Project Design. Type-A Water Licence- Meliadine Gold Project, Nunavut. Report Number: Doc 462-1405283 Ver. 1.
- 22. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Meliadine Gold Project, Spill Contingency Plan. April 2015 Version 4 6513-MPS-05.
- 23. Submitted on **May 13, 2015** by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Meliadine Gold Project, Water Management Plan. April 2015 Version 1 6513-MPS-11.

Additional File Submissions & Correspondence:

- 1. Email from Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing, NWB to Stéphane Robert, AEM; Re: New Type A Application-Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. –Meliadine Project- Kivalliq Region-Request Completeness Review dated **June 11, 2015**.
- 2. Letter from Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager of Licensing, NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs Nunavut, AEM; Re: Application for a Type "A" Water Licence, Meliadine Gold Project; Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. Completeness Check dated **June 11**, **2015**.
- 3. Letter from Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager of Licensing, NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs Nunavut, AEM; Re: Acknowledgement and Receipt of Application Fee-New Water Licence- Meliadine Gold Project dated **June 11, 2015**.
- 4. Submission from Michael I. Mohammed, Senior Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Environment Canada to Phyllis Beaullieu, Manager Licensing, NWB; Re: 2AM-MEL----

- Application for a Type "A" Water Licence, Meliadine Gold Project; Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. dated **July 10, 2015**.
- 5. Submission from Ian Parsons, Regional Coordinator, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) to Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB; Re: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada Completeness review of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Application for a New Type A Water Licence, No. 2AM-MEL dated July 13, 2015.
- 6. Cover Email from Maria Serra, GIS Coordinator, Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager of Licensing, NWB; Re: KIA Extension Request 2AM-MEL----License Application completeness review dated **July 14, 2015.**
- 7. Email from Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager of Licensing, NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs Nunavut, AEM; Re: Submissions Received to Date-Completeness Review dated **July 15, 2015.**
- 8. Email from Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager of Licensing, NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs Nunavut, AEM; Re: Extension to Deadline for Completeness Review dated **July 15, 2015.**
- 9. Submission from Maria Serra, GIS Coordinator, KIA to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager of Licensing, NWB; Re: Comments on the completeness of application documents pertaining to Type A File 2AM-MEL---- Meliadine Gold Project dated **July 21, 2015.**
- Submission from Maria Serra, GIS Coordinator, KIA to Ms. Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager of Licensing, Nunavut Water Board (NWB); Re: Technical Memorandum of Meliadine Gold Project. Re: J150077- Meliadine Water Licence Completeness Review dated July 21, 2015.
- 11. Submission from Ian Parsons, Regional Coordinator, B.Sc., AANDC to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing, NWB; Re: Updated review of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Application for a New Type A Water Licence, after in person discussion with Agnico-Eagle Personnel and in light of extension being granted until July 21, 2015. Licence No. 2AM-MEL dated July 21, 2015.
- 12. Email from Karen Kharatyan, Technical Advisor, NWB to Richard Nesbitt, Aquatic Scientist, Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd.; Re: Additional Information Meliadine dated **July 23, 2015.**
- 13. Submission from Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing, NWB; Re: Response to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada Completeness Review of Agnico Eagle Mines Application for a Type A Water Licence, No. 2AM-MEL dated **July 24, 2015**.
- 14. Submission from Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing, NWB; Re: Response to Kivalliq Inuit Association Completeness Review of Agnico Eagle Mines Application for a Type A Water Licence, No. 2AM-MEL dated **July 24, 2015**.

- 15. Email from Richard Nesbitt, Aquatic Scientist, Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd. Karen Kharatyan, NWB; Re: Correspondence intervenor response Re: 2AM-MEL---- Acknowledgement of AEM Response to Intervenor Completeness review-New Application dated **July 30, 2015.**
- 16. Letter from Stephanie Autut, Executive Director, NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs Nunavut, AEM; Re: Application for a Type "A" Water Licence, File No, 2AM-MEL----, Meliadine Gold Project; Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. dated **August 27**, **2015.**
- 17. Email from Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs Nunavut, AEM; Re: Type "A" Notice of Application- Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd- Meliadine Gold Project- Meliadine Distribution dated **August 27, 2015.**
- 18. Notice Local: Public Hearing Notice to Local Organizations Request to Post Notice 2AM-MEL---- dated **August 27, 2015.**
- 19. Public Notice: Nunavut Water Board Public Notice of New Application Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited-Meliadine Gold Project 2AM-MEL---- (English and Inuktitut) dated August 27, 2015.
- 20. Email NWB from Ian Parsons Regional Coordinator, AANDC to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing; Re: Extension on Meliadine dated **September 4, 2015.**
- 21. Email from Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator NWB to Larry Connell, AEM; Re: AANDC Request for Extension Type "A" Notice of New Application-Meliadine Distribution dated **September 10, 2015.**
- 22. Email from Larry Connell, Corporate Director Regulatory Affairs, AEM to Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB; Re: Applicant Response to Extension Request Re: 2AM-MEL---- Extension Request to Deadline for Notice of Application-Type "A" Application dated **September 10, 2015.**
- 23. Email from Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM; Re: 2AM-MEL---- Scheduling of Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference-Meliadine Gold Project-Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. Dated **September 28, 2015**.
- 24. Letter to from Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM; Re: Application for the Water Licence No. 2AM-MEL----, Meliadine Gold Project, Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Scheduling of TM/PHC dated September 28, 2015.
- 25. Submission from Ian Parsons, B.Sc, Regional Coordinator, AANDC to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing, NWB; Re: AANDC's Review of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Application for New Type A Water Licence for its Proposed Meliadine Gold Mine. Licence No. 2AM-MEL---- dated **October 5, 2015**.
- 26. Submission from Michael I. Mohammed, Senior Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Environment Canada to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing, NWB; Re: Application for a

- Type "A" Water Licence, File No. 2AM-MEL----Meliadine Gold Project, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. Dated **October 5, 2015.**
- 27. Submission from Michael I. Mohammed, Senior Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Environment Canada to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manger Licensing, NWB; Re: Environment Canada's Technical Comments on the Type "A" Water Licence Application for the Meliadine Gold Project, dated **October 5, 2015**.
- 28. Submission from Luis Manzo, Director of Lands, Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Meliadine Type A Water Licence Technical Review, dated October 5, 2015.
- 29. Submission from Luis Manzo, Director of Lands, Kivalliq Inuit Association to Nunavut Water Board; Re: J150077-Meliadine Type A Water Licence Technical Review dated October 5, 2015.
- 30. Public Notice; Nunavut Water Board Public Notice of Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference for Type "A" Water Licence application (No: 2AM-MEL----) to Meliadine Distribution (*English and Inuktitut*) dated **October 5, 2015.**
- 31. Letter from Stephanie Autut, Executive Director, NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM; Re: Application for the Water Licence No. 2AM-MEL----, Meliadine Gold Project, Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Confirmation of Technical Meeting and Pre-hearing Conference dated **October 6, 2015**.
- 32. Submission from Ian Parsons, B.Sc Regional Coordinator, AANDC to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing, NWB; Re: Update to AANDC's Review of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM) Application for a New Type A Water Licence for its Proposed Meliadine Gold Mine. Licence No. 2AM-MEL----, ARCADIS Review of AEM's Closure Cost Estimate and AEM's Response dated **October 6, 2015.**
- 33. Email from Michael Mohammed, Senior Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Environment Canada to Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administration, NWB; Re: 2AM-MEL---- Confirmation and Notice of Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference-Type "A" New Water Licence Application-Meliadine Gold Project dated **October 6, 2015**.
- 34. NWB Local TV Ad ppt; Nunavut Water Board Public Notice, Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference for Type "A" Water Licence Application (No: 2AM-MEL----) (English and Inuktitut) dated October 6, 2015.
- 35. Notice Local; Local Organizations Request to Post Notices 2AM-MEL----dated **October 6, 2015**.
- 36. Public Notice; Nunavut Water Board Public Notice of Technical Meeting and Prehearing Conference New Application for a Type "A" Licence 2AM-MEL---- Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. dated **October 6, 2015.**
- 37. Letter from Stephanie Autut, Executive Director, NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM; Re: Application for the Water Licence No. 2AM-MEL----,

- Meliadine Gold Project, Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Confirmation of Technical Meeting and Pre-hearing Conference with proposed Agendas dated **October 6, 2015**.
- 38. Nunavut Water Board; Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference Inuktitut Agenda (s) dated **October 6, 2015**.
- 39. Submissions from Environment Canada to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Executive Summary of Environment Canada's (EC) Presentation to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Concerning Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Gold Project Type "A" Water Licence Application (English and Inuktitut) received on October 8, 2015.
- 40. Submission from Environment Canada to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Environments Canada's (EC) Presentation to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Concerning Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Gold Project Type "A" Water Licence Application received on October 8, 2015.
- 41. Email to Karen Kharatyan, Technical Advisor, NWB from Kristina Benoit, Technical Advisor, NIRB; Re: NIRB Inquiry- Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference dated October 9, 2015.
- 42. Submission from Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM to Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB; Re: Type A Water Licence, Technical Responses dated October 9, 2015.
- 43. Submission from Ian Parsons, B.Sc, Regional Coordinator, AANDC to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing, NWB; Re: Update # 2 to AANDC's Review of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM) Application for a New Type A Water Licence for its Proposed Meliadine Gold Mine. Licence No. 2AM-MEL----, ARCADIS Independent Closure Cost Estimate using Reclaim dated October 9, 2015.
- 44. Email from Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs Nunavut, AEM; Re: AANDC Review of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd's Type "A" New Water Licence Application-ARCADIS Independent Closure Cost Estimate dated October 9, 2015.
- 45. Email from Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association to Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB; Re: 2AM-MEL---- Confirmation of Participants-Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference-Meliadine dated **October 13, 2015**.
- 46. Email Letter to Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB from Tineka Simmons, Senior Project Manager, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor); Re: 2AM-MEL---- Confirmation of Participants-Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference Meliadine dated **October 13, 2015**.
- 47. Email from Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs Nunavut, AEM; Re: Confirmation of Participants-Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference- Meliadine dated **October 13, 2015**.

- 48. Submission from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to Nunavut Water Board; Re: 2AM-MEL---- AANDC Meliadine Technical Meeting Presentation dated October 14, 2015.
- 49. Submission from Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Meliadine Gold Project Technical Meeting Type A Water Licence Application dated **October 14, 2015**.
- 50. Submission from Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. to Nunavut Water Board; Re: 2AM-MEL----AEM Technical Hearing Community session Type A Water Licence Application Presentation dated **October 14, 2015.**
- 51. Submission from Mohammed, Michael, Environment Canada (EC) to Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB; Re: EC Presentation to NWB Technical Meeting/PHC for Meliadine Type "A" Water Licence, EC's Presentation to the Nunavut Water Board, Concerning Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Gold Project Type "A" Water Licence Application dated October 14, 2015.
- 52. Submissions from Kivalliq Inuit Association to Nunavut Water Board; Re: KIA Presentation to NWB-Meliadine WL Community Meeting (*English and Inuktitut*) dated **October 14, 2015**.
- 53. Submissions from Kivalliq Inuit Association to Nunavut Water Board; Re: KIA Presentation to NWB-Meliadine WL Technical Meeting (*English and Inuktitut*) dated **October 14, 2015**.
- 54. Email Cover from Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM; Re: 2AM-MEL---- Pre-Hearing Decision Report dated November 10, 2015.
- 55. Letter to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM from Stephanie Autut, Executive Director, NWB; Re: Type "A" Water Licence 2AM-MEL----: Pre-Hearing Conference Decision Regarding an Application for a new Type "A" Water Licence dated November 10, 2015.
- 56. Email to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs Nunavut, AEM from Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB; Re: Notice of Public Hearing-Type "A" Meliadine New Water Licence-Kivalliq Region dated **November 16, 2015**.
- 57. Public Notice: Nunavut Water Board, Notice of Public Hearing 2AM-MEL---- New Notice of Public Hearing (*English and Inuktitu*) dated **November 16, 2015.**
- 58. Submission from Julie Dahl, Regional Manager, Regulatory Reviews, Fisheries Protection Program to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Notice of Public Hearing dated **November 27**, **2015**.
- 59. Submission from Julie Dahl, Regional Manager, Regulatory Reviews, Fisheries Protection Program, Fisheries and Oceans Canada to Stéphane Robert, AEM; Re: Summary of Discussions and Review of Fisheries Screening Assessment and Offsetting Plan-Meliadine Gold Project v. June 2015 dated **November 27, 2015**.

- 60. Letter from Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM to Stephanie Autut, Executive Director, NWB; Re: Meliadine Type A Water Licence Draft Framework dated **December 8, 2015**.
- 61. Submission from Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM to Nunavut Water Board; Re: 2AM-MEL1631 Draft Meliadine Type A Water Licence Framework dated **December 8, 2015**.
- 62. Email Cover to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing, NWB from Richard Nesbitt, Aquatic Scientist, ES Ltd.; Re: KIA Final Written Submission: Review of 2AM-MEL----Application for Type "A" Water Licence, Meliadine Gold Project, dated **December 16**, **2015.**
- 63. Submission from KIA to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Meliadine Type A Water License Technical Review, Public Hearing Submission, dated **December 16, 2015.**
- 64. Submission from Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing, NWB; Re: Type A Water Licence, No. 2AM-MEL---- Pre-Hearing conference commitment 20, 21, and 22 dated **December 18, 2015**.
- 65. Submission from Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing, NWB; Re: Type A Water Licence, No. 2AM-MEL Pre-Hearing conference commitment 20, 21 and 22 dated **December 18, 2015**.
- 66. Submission from Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing, NWB; Re: Type A Water Licence, No. 2AM-MEL Pre-Hearing conference commitment 10 and Technical Comments from the Kivalliq Inuit Association dated **December 21, 2015**.
- 67. Submision from Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd, Meliadine Gold Project to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan December 2015, Version 2 dated **December 22, 2015**.
- 68. Submission from Nunavut Tungavik Inc. and Kivalliq Inuit Association, to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Reclaim Cost Estimate for the Meliadine Gold Project dated **December 23**, **2015.**
- 69. Submission from Nunavut Tungavik Inc. and Kivalliq Inuit Association, to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Updated Security Cost Estimate for the Meliadine Gold Project dated **December 23, 2015.**
- 70. Submission from KIA to Nunavut Water Board. Re: 2AM-MEL---- Appendix 1 KIA NTI Reclaim 7 0 Meliadine Project dated **December 23, 2015.**
- 71. Submission from KIA to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Meliadine Gold Mine Project Phase 1 Type A Water License Application- Comparison of Reclamation and Closure Cost Estimates (AEM vs KIA vs AANDC) dated December 23, 2015.
- 72. Letter from Ian Parsons, B.Sc, Regional Coordinator, INAC. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's (INAC's (Formerly AANDC)) to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing,

- NWB; Re: Final Technical Review of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Application for a New type A Water Licence for its Proposed Meliadine Gold Mine. Licence No. 2AM-MEL----dated **December 23, 2015.**
- 73. Letter from Melissa Pinto Environmental Assessment Coordinator, ECCC to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing, NWB; Re: 2AM-MEL---- Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.-Meliadine Gold Mine-Intervention respecting the Type "A" Water Licence Application dated **December 24, 2015.**
- 74. Submission from Melissa Pinto Environmental Assessment Coordinator, ECCC to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing, NWB; Re: ECCC intervention to the Nunavut Water Board respecting the Meliadine Gold Project Phase 1 Type "A" Water Licence Application dated **December 24, 2015.**
- 75. Submissions from Melissa Pinto Environmental Assessment Coordinator, ECCC to Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager Licensing, NWB; Re: ECCC intervention to the Nunavut Water Board respecting the Meliadine Gold Project Phase 1 Type "A" Water Licence Application Executive Summary (*French and Inuktitut*) dated **December 24, 2015.**
- 76. Email from Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM; Re: 2AM-MEL---- Final Submissions for Type "A" New Water Licence Public Hearing dated **December 30, 2015.**
- 77. Submission from AEM to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Response to Information Request KIA-WL-01: Type A Water Licence Application: Meliadine Gold Project, NU dated January 7, 2016.
- 78. Letter from Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM to Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB; Re: NWB 2AM-MEL Final Response to the final written submission on the Type A Water License application of the Meliadine Project dated **January 8, 2016.**
- 79. Submission from KIA to NWB; Re: 2AM-MEL----KIA Presentation to NWB, Public Hearing dated **January 21, 2015.**
- 80. Submission from KIA to NWB; Re: 2AM-MEL---- KIA Presentation to NWB Public Hearing Community Meeting dated **January 21, 2015.**
- 81. Submission from INAC to NWB; Re: Public Hearing Executive Summary, New Water Licence Application, Proposed Meliadine Gold Mine, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. Kivalliq Region, Nunavut dated **January 22, 2016.**
- 82. Submission from INAC to Nunavut Water Board; Re: 2AM-MEL---- INAC Public Hearing Presentation dated **January 22, 2016.**
- 83. Submissions from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to Nunavut Water Board; Re: ECCC's Presentation to NWB Concerning Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Gold Project Type "A" Water Licence Application (*English and Inuktitut*) dated **January 22, 2016.**

- 84. Submission from NTI and KIA to NWB; Re: 2AM-MEL---- Appendix 1 KIA NTI Reclaim 7 0 Meliadine Project December 18, 2015 dated **January 25, 2016.**
- 85. Submission from Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Presentation Meliadine Gold Project, Final Public Hearing Type A Water Licence Application dated **January 26, 2016.**
- 86. Submission from Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s to Nunavut Water Board; Re: 2AM-MEL---Meliadine Gold Project Executive Summary, Type A Water Licence Application dated

 January 26, 2015. (*Inuktitut*)
- 87. Email from Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM; Re: 2AM-MEL---- Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s TM-PHC Commitments dated **February 1, 2016**.
- 88. Email from Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM; Re: 2AM-MEL---- AEM's Final Submission- Public Hearing Presentation dated **February 1, 2016.**
- 89. Submission from Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s to Nunavut Water Board; Re: Technical Memorandum 2015 Hydrogeological Investigations and Results-Tiriganiaq Underground dated **February 1, 2015**.
- 90. Email from Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs Nunavut, AEM; Re: Public Hearing Update and Agenda for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited-Meliadine Gold Project dated **February 2, 2016.**
- 91. Letter AEM from Stephanie Autut, Executive Director, NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs; Re: Application for the Water Licence No. 2AM-MEL----, Meliadine Gold Project, Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Public Hearing Update and Hearing Agenda dated **February 2, 2016.**
- 92. Public Notice: Nunavut Water Board Notice of Public Hearing-2AM-MEL---- New Type "A" Water Licence (*English and Inuktitut*) dated **February 2, 2016.**
- 93. Local Notice; Public Hearing Notice to Local Organizations-Request to Post Notice 2AM-MEL---- dated **February 2, 2016.**
- 94. Nunavut Water Board Presentation, Community Session Presentation, New Type "A" Water Licence Application 2AM-MEL---- by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited for the Meliadine Gold Project dated **February 3, 2016.**
- 95. Email from Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM to Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB; Re: 2AM-MEL---- Type "A" New Water Licence-Public Hearing List of Attendees dated **February 5, 2016.**
- 96. Email from Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB to Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM; Re: 2AM-MEL---- Type "A" Water Licence-Public Hearing List of Attendees dated **February 5, 2016.**

- 97. Email from Stéphane Robert, Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM to Robin Ikkutisluk, Licensing Administrator, NWB; Re: 2AM-MEL---- NWB Public Hearing: Freezing point depression calculation reference dated **February 11, 2016.**
- 98. Letter from Lootie Toomassie, Chairperson of the Meliadine Panel (P15), NWB, to Stéphane Robert Manager Regulatory Affairs, AEM, Karen Costello, Director Resource Management, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and to Luis Manzo, Director of Lands, Kivalliq Inuit Association; Re: Licence No. 2AM-MEL----, Type "A" Water Licence Application, Meliadine Gold Project, Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Nunavut Water Board Written Direction Regarding Public Hearing Record Remaining Open issued February 15, 2016.
- 99. Letter from Kimberley Gilson, Duboff Edwards Haight & Schachter Law Corporation to Stephanie Autut, Executive Director, NWB; Re: Meliadine Project L:icence Application dated **February 17, 2016**.
- 100. Submission from Kivalliq Inuit Association to the Nunavut Water Board; Re: Meliadine Security Management Agreement between Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) and Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited (the Proponent) and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affiars (the Minister) signed by KIA and AEM February 16, 2016 and received **February 19, 2016**.
- 101. Submission from the Kivalliq Inuit Association to the Nunavut Water Board; Re: Meliadine Security Management Agreement between Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) and Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited (the Proponent) and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affiars (the Minister) signed by KIA and INAC February 17, 2016 and received **February 19, 2016**.
- 102. Letter from Lootie Toomassie, Chairperson of the Meliadine Panel (P15), NWB, to Meliadine Distribution List; Re: Licence No. 2AM-MEL---- Type "A" Water Licence Application, Meliadine Gold Project, Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited; Nunavut Water Board Written Direction Regarding Close of the Public Hearing Record issued **February 22**, **2016**.



Public Hearing Meliadine Gold Project Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

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