

May 16, 2019

Stephanie Autut  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Water Board  
P.O. Box 119  
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

**RE: WHALE TAIL PIT PROJECT NWB WATER LICENCE 2AM-WTP1826/2AM-MEA1526/2BB-MEA1828 – AMENDMENT REQUEST**

Dear Ms. Autut:

Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle) currently operates the Meadowbank Mine under Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Water Licence 2AM-MEA1526, and the Whale Tail Pit Project under NWB Water Licence 2AM-WTP1826.

As set out in the enclosed materials, Agnico Eagle is proposing certain changes to the Whale Tail Pit Project which are currently under consideration by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB). Specifically, Agnico Eagle is seeking approval to expand and extend the Whale Tail Pit Project and extend the NWB Water Licence 2AM-WTP1826 from 2026 to 2043 to include:

- the IVR Pit;
- IVR Waste Rock Facility;
- Expanded Whale Tail Pit;
- IVR Attenuation Pond; and
- Underground mine
- (collectively, the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project).

**1. Overview of Proposed Amendment to NWB Water Licence 2AM-WTP1826**

In accordance with NWB *Guide 7 Licensee Requirements following the Issuance of a Water Licence* (July 2015) and subsequent conversations with NWB staff, Agnico Eagle has submitted the attached Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project main application document to NWB.

**A. Background**

The Meadowbank Mine was the subject of positive NPC conformity determinations on July 12, 2002 and July 21, 2003; the Amaruq exploration project received positive NPC conformity determinations on March 10, 2011 and October 15, 2015; and the Amaruq access road received an NPC conformity determination on July 16, 2015. Agnico Eagle also received a positive conformity determination on June 17, 2016 for the operation of the Whale Tail Pit and haul road, as it is a satellite operation to the Meadowbank Mine.

On November 6, 2017, the NIRB provided a positive decision on the Whale Tail Pit Project and on March 15, 2018 Agnico Eagle gained approval to further extend the life of the mine by constructing and operating the Whale Tail Pit and associated facilities as permitted by NIRB Project Certificate No.008. On July 11, 2018, the Minister approved the Whale Tail Pit Type A Water License 2AM-WTP1826 to begin construction

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and operation of the Whale Tail Pit, hauling of ore to the Meadowbank Mill, and continued milling at the Meadowbank Mill and operation of the tailings storage facility under an amended Meadowbank Mine Type A Water License 2AM MEA1526.

Given the rapid pace in reserve and resource expansion at the property, Agnico Eagle undertook the pre-economic assessment and feasibility of expanding the Whale Tail Pit Project to include the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project. The Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project is located within the approved Whale Tail Pit project regional study area. As per its determination of October 19, 2018, the NPC has confirmed that the Whale Tail Pit Expansion are in conformity with the applicable land use planning requirements. Further details of the Whale Tail Pit Expansion are set out in the enclosed Main application document submitted with this letter.

On December 19, 2018 Agnico Eagle submitted an updated Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to the NIRB and on January 10, 2019, NIRB officially initiated the information request period. Agnico Eagle's information request responses were provided on March 14, 2019 and the technical review comment period is set to occur between March 15 and May 14, 2019. The NIRB technical meeting is scheduled from June 11-13, 2019.

Given that this proposed expansion is an extension of Whale Tail Pit ore body that is approved under Type A Water Licence 2AM WTP1826 , Agnico Eagle requested a "staggered" (or partially) coordinated review process between the NIRB and NWB. This approach would allow the NIRB process to proceed partially in parallel with the process to amend the existing NWB Water Licence 2AM-WTP1826 to ensure impacts to waste and water relating to the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project are consistent with those predicted for the Whale Tail Pit Project. A draft process map is noted below in Figure 1.

**FIGURE 1: Draft NWB Process Map**

Duration	Date	Stage
	Thursday, May 16, 2019	Agnico submits Type A Water Licence Amendment Application
29	Friday, June 14, 2019	NWB correspondence requesting interested parties to conduct their completeness check and preliminary technical assessment of the Application
28	Friday, July 12, 2019	Comments received.
28	Friday, August 9, 2019	Agnico submits responses to comments. NWB issues request for information requests
31	Monday, September 9, 2019	Receipt of Information Requests
30	Wednesday, October 9, 2019	Agnico Response to Information Requests NWB issues request for Technical Comments
29	Thursday, November 7, 2019	Technical Comments Received
32	Monday, December 9, 2019	Agnico Response to Technical Comments
42	Monday, January 20, 2020	Technical Meeting and PHC + Notice of Public hearing
60	Friday, March 20, 2020	Public Hearing in Baker Lake
45	Monday, May 4, 2020	NWB Issues Decision
45	Thursday, June 18, 2020	Ministerial Decision and Type A Licence Amendment issued.
60	Monday, August 17, 2020	60 day notice completed

## **B. Nunavut Water Board Amendment Information Requirements**

To support the NWB's review, it is important to note that the proposed changes to the Whale Tail Pit Project are located entirely within the area of impact previously considered by the NWB when Agnico Eagle received NWB Water Licence 2AM-WTP1826 on July 11, 2018. It is also important to note that following submission to the NIRB, Agnico Eagle has refined our Water Balance and Water Quality Forecast and as a result the predicted water quality in the receiving environment has improved and closure timelines have been reduced. These improvements are reflected in the enclosed amendment application.

In this application, Agnico Eagle has submitted the following documents as per NWB Guide 7 *Licensee Requirements following the Issuance of a Water Licence* in support of the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project Water Licence 2AM-WTP1826 amendment:

- NWB Application for Water Licence Amendment;
- Project Summary (English/Inuktitut);
- Main Application Document;
- Appendix A: Supplemental Information Guideline;
- Appendix B: NPC Conformity Determination;
- Appendix C: Compliance Assessment/Status Report;
- Appendix D: Certificate of Incorporation;
- Appendix E: List of Permits;
- Appendix F: List of Consultation;
- Appendix G: Management Plans;
- Appendix H: Supporting Documents;
- Appendix I: Site Layouts.

In addition, Agnico Eagle has submitted the following documents in support of the Meadowbank Mine Water Licence 2AM-MEA1526 amendment:

- NWB Application for Water Licence Amendment;
- Compliance Assessment/Status Report.

Agnico Eagle has ensured the operation and closure strategies for the proposed Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project are consistent with the approved Whale Tail Pit Project. Any additional security required to be posted in respect of the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project will be arranged with Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and Kivalliq Inuit Association and posted in accordance with NWB Water Licence 2AM-WTP1826.

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## **2. Overview of New Type B Water Licence and Proposed Consequential Amendments to NWB Water Licence 2AM-WTP1526 and NWB Water Licence 2BB-MEA1828**

In addition to the amendment to NWB Water Licence 2AM-WTP1826 described above, as ore from the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project will continue to be processed at Meadowbank, Agnico Eagle is also seeking approval to make a consequential amendment to NWB Water Licence 2AM-MEA1526 (the Meadowbank Water Licence) to extend the expiry date of that licence from 2026 to 2033. This change is not associated with any change to the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project proposal that Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) confirmed in October 2018 was in conformity with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan, but as the consequential amendment to the Meadowbank Mine Water Licence 2AM-MEA1526 was not specifically identified previously, Agnico Eagle will notify NPC and NIRB about its request to extend the Meadowbank Water Licence. A completed amendment application form for NWB Water Licence 2AM-MEA1526 will be submitted by May 16 2019

In addition, Agnico Eagle is seeking approval to transfer the following activities from the NWB Water Licence 2BB-MEA1828 to the NWB Water Licence 2AM-WTP1826:

1. Bulk sampling;
2. underground development and underground exploration drilling (including the portal, ramp and 2 ventilation raises);
3. operation of stormwater management pond (A-P5), which will be converted into GSP-1 for the Expansion Project;
4. services and operations pads;
5. handling and storage of waste rock and ore on pads;
6. quarrying;
7. laydown/garage/warehouse area for the ramp; and,
8. construction of pads.

It is proposed that the NWB Water Licence 2BB-MEA1828 Water Licence will be amended to reflect these changes once approval of the NWB Water Licence 2AM-WTP1826 amendment is received.

For greater efficiency, because the amendments to the Meadowbank Mine Water Licence 2AM-MEA1526, NWB Water Licence 2BB-MEA1828 and NWB Water Licence 2AM-WTP1826 all directly relate to the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project proposal, Agnico requests that the NWB process the applications together within the same process.

Agnico Eagle also wishes to make the NWB aware that it intends to request an exception pursuant to Section 12.10.2 of the Nunavut Agreement and Section 155 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* in the near term. In our view, these activities fall within Schedule 12-1 of the Nunavut Agreement and these activities are of a nature consistent with exploration that should be permitted to proceed without NIRB review. Agnico plans to proceed with the following activities, subject to NIRB approval:

1. installation of infrastructure to increase capacity of Sewage and Freshwater Treatment Plants to 600 people;
  2. completion of civil works (pads) for the fuel storage tanks to be located at the Whale Tail Cement Rockfill Plant;
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3. installation of two additional gensets at the permanent camp and one additional genset at the underground powerplant, installation of their associate fuel storage tanks, and completion of associated civil work;
4. installation of four additional wings to the permanent camp to increase capacity to 540 people and completion of associated civil works;
5. expansion of approved workers dry module and completion of associated civil works;
6. expansion of approved kitchen and completion of associated civil works;
7. installation of Cement Rock Plants at Whale Tail and IVR and completion of associated civil works; and,
8. installation of RO dome, construction of an access road to RO area and pad, installation of associated fuel storage tanks and associated water pond (GSP-2).

The details of this request will be presented during the NIRB Technical Meetings scheduled for June 11-13, 2019 in Baker Lake. While many of these items will not require a Type B Water Licence, Agnico has provided this list to the NWB for transparency respecting the scope of the application.

Through this submission, Agnico Eagle believes the NWB now has the information required to process the amendment request. If you require any further information, please contact the undersigned via email or telephone.

Best regards,

Jamie Quesnel

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Environmental Superintendent –  
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