7-A: Addendum Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit 2018 Updated Baseline

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Whale Tail Pit - Expansion Project

Submitted to:

Nunavut Impact Review Board

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Appendix 7-A - IQ Baseline Update

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Table of Contents

7.A-1 BASELINE STUDY METHODS

Additional IQ, including TLRU baseline information, and Project-related concerns were gathered through a review of the consultation records for the Approved Project, which has been carried forward into the assessment for the Expansion Project.

Consultation for the Expansion Project between Agnico Eagle, Environmental Resources Management (ERM), and the communities of Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet occurred in July 2018 (Agnico Eagle 2018a). In Baker Lake, an Open House and meetings were held with youth, women, Elders, the Hamlet, KivIA, and the HTO. In Chesterfield Inlet, meetings were held with the Hamlet, Town Hall, and the HTO.

The focus of the meetings in Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet was to provide an update on the Expansion Project and receive feedback on water management options for the attenuation pond and fish compensation options associated with the Project. Consultants from ERM facilitated the discussion on water management options and fish compensation options. Shipping was also discussed during the Baker Lake Open House meeting, the Chesterfield Inlet Open House meeting, and the Chesterfield Inlet HTO meeting.

During these meetings, some IQ, including Project-related concerns were provided, which have been integrated into the FEIS Addendum for the Expansion Project. Agnico Eagle is planning additional consultation with Chesterfield Inlet community members and representatives in the fall of 2018, to gather TLRU and IQ related to marine resources and harvesting, and Project-specific concerns.

TLRU baseline information and IQ specific to marine resources and marine resource harvesting for Chesterfield Inlet residents was gathered through a review of the following publicly available sources:

- The Inuit Land Use and Occupancy Project (Freeman 1976) describes traditional land and resource use for northern Canada during three distinct chronological periods based on interviews with hunters and trappers. It includes an illustration of the extent of land use by the Inuit of the Chesterfield Inlet area.
- The Nunavut Atlas (Riewe 1992) describes and maps Traditional Knowledge collected through interviews in the late 1980s and early 1990s.
- AREVA Kiggavik Project EIS (AREVA 2011b) provides information on Inuit knowledge and land use of Chesterfield Inlet residents related to marine resources.
- Nanuk Enterprises (2011) held IQ interviews and focus groups held in Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet and Whale Cove for the Agnico Eagle Meliadine Gold Project in the winter of 2010 and 2011.
- Burt and Hickes (2012) held interviews on traditional use of marine areas around select Kivalliq communities, especially Rankin Inlet but also Chesterfield Inlet and Whale Cove in 2012 for the Agnico Eagle Meliadine Gold Project.
- Nunami Stantec (2010) held an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit workshop in Chesterfield Inlet in January 2010, for the Agnico Eagle Meadowbank Gold Project.
- Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA) Land Administration (2018). Land Management Application. The KivIA has an Online Application and Mapping tool which maps TEK of marine mammals, marine fish and marine birds and harvesting areas for the Kivalliq region.

- GN (2005). Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit of Climate Change in Nunavut, a Sample of Inuit Experiences of Climate Change in Nunavut Baker Lake and Arviat, Nunavut.

7.A-2 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND BASELINE INFORMATION

The results of the IQ baseline report is presented in the Approved Project FEIS Volume 7, Appendix 7-A (Agnico Eagle 2016c). Additional IQ, including Project-concerns, are also presented in each respective discipline sections:

- Addendum Volume 4: climate and meteorology, air quality, noise and vibration
- Addendum Volume 5: terrain, permafrost and soils, vegetation, wildlife
- Addendum Volume 6: hydrology, water quality, fish and fish habitat
- Addendum Volume 7: heritage resources, and socio-economics
- Addendum Appendix 3-A: marine resources

7.A-2.1 Wildlife Harvesting

Baker Lake community members re-iterated that caribou is considered a staple food source and their protection is paramount: "…*but we must remember we are the last of the remaining Inuit people that depend on caribou* (NIRB 2017, p.657). It was noted that caribou meat will taste different depending on the caribou's diet (Agnico Eagle 2018a). Muskox are also part of the diet of Baker Lake community members, and fox and wolverine are hunted for their skins (Agnico Eagle 2018a).

Baker Lake community members stated that the caribou calving season is between April and June (Agnico Eagle 2018a; NIRB and NWB 2017). There are two caribou herds that overlap the Meadowbank area, which long-time hunters distinguish based on their appearance and taste (Agnico Eagle 2018a). One herd was described as brown tan in colour with 'manes that stick out', while the other herd had some white hair (Agnico Eagle 2018a). There is also an inland herd that is typically the 'skinniest' and will run and swim away from mosquitoes (Agnico Eagle 2018a).

Caribou migrate down to Baker Lake when it starts 'getting dark', in August. Caribou were previously observed all winter but not anymore (Agnico Eagle 2018a, p.46).

The value of caribou crossings to Baker Lake community members, and their protection, was described:

> *Our traditional values are about the caribou crossings. The people from Baker Lake understand caribou crossings very well because they are sacred, they are what brings caribou from there up to here so that they could end up on the floor of somebody's igloo so that they could eat, so they could survive…the crossings to us are very valuable. We are not allowed to put any kind of garbage or anything* (NIRB 2017, p. 656).

The importance of not disturbing the first caribou herd passing through during migration was emphasized:

> *With respect to caribou, we are concerned -- when I was growing up, I remember when I was young -- a young adult, our elders would teach the youth how to hunt, and they told us not to bother the caribou. When someone is hunting, when the herd was coming through, they used to tell -- tell the youth, You have to let…the leaders go through first…and it's -- today, it's hard to bring that point across…*(NIRB 2017, p. 668-669).

Since 2008 and the construction of Meadowbank Mine, Baker Lake community members have observed changes in caribou distribution patterns:

> *There used to be caribou around Baker. At the runway, I remember when we used to -- when I would fly in, there would be caribou on the runway and we'd have -- they'd have to shoo them away. There used to be caribou around town. We don't see that anymore. That's just within my lifetime of being in and out of the community* (NIRB 2017, p. 660).

Some Baker Lake community members have indicated that caribou have been affected by mining in general, and that explosives may be scaring them away (NIRB and NWB 2017). Changes in caribou movement because of the Haul Road, including disturbance from road traffic (i.e., speed and horns) have been observed by some community members (NIRB and NWB 2017), while others have indicated that they've observed no changes to caribou movement and migration because of the road (NIRB 2017). It was noted that muskox can also affect the movement patterns and migration routes of caribou herds (NIRB 2017).

The importance of protecting caribou for future generations was emphasized:

> *And we have to watch out for the future; our caribou, make sure we're protecting them -- 'cause, when the mine closes and there's no more jobs, then people are still going to be relying on the caribou. Are the caribou going to be there?* (NIRB 2017, p.663).

> *Our wildlife and our land has to be considered for our future and training for our youth. It is something that they were educated in. We're losing our wildlife*…(NIRB 2017, pg. 639).

7.A-2.2 Fishing

Baker Lake community members indicated that Arctic Char (non-anadromous and anadromous), white fish (coregonid species), Arctic Grayling, and Lake Trout are an important part of their diet; however, Arctic Char is the preferred species (Agnico Eagle 2018a). Chesterfield Inlet community members also reported they rely on Arctic Char, including fish caught in salt water, rivers, and/or lakes, but the community relies on their own populations of fish from local lakes (Agnico Eagle 2018a). Different Inuktitut names are given to the fish based on the stage of their lifecycle (i.e., changing appearance) and type of waterbody they inhabit (e.g., lake versus sea). There are also differences based on regional dialect; for example, Arctic Char has four different names (Agnico Eagle 2018a).

Baker Lake community members noted that fish species will migrate differently depending on their diets, with some going up rivers, and others travelling downriver (Agnico Eagle 2018a). Fish typically spawn in one main lake, and will travel up and down the east river, and north; however, when the rivers are low, they cannot migrate back to the lake (Agnico Eagle 2018a). Arctic Char are considered the strongest of the fish species which fight to migrate up rivers (Agnico Eagle 2018a). Certain areas of the river are considered hard for Arctic Char to migrate through because of barriers to migration, and the Baker Lake community members have facilitated Arctic Char migration by opening the creek (i.e., removing boulders) to improve water flow and fish migration.

How Arctic Char migrate, and change from living in salt water to fresh water was explained by Baker Lake community members:

> *They don't go down to Hudson Bay, char we see have their system of going up river for winter and come down for summer. Now, [the] system they go through that they have to before [travelling up] river, [is to] prepare themselves down on the coast to take in freshwater. If they go up the river they don't go today and [the] next day, they have to acclimatize. Two types of Char*…(Agnico Eagle 2018, p.45)
>
> *Down coast, char will go up rivers up as far as 80 miles, and will go to the same spot every year. That is changing because of climate change* (Agnico Eagle 2018a, p.45).

Preferred fishing sites were identified close to the Baker Lake community, and include Airplane Lake, Baker Lake, and Prince River, but it was noted that fish caught further away from town taste better than fish caught close to town (Agnico Eagle 2018a). Airplane Lake is no longer considered as good for fishing because of sewage and poor water quality (Agnico Eagle 2018a). Fishing in Baker Lake occurs year round but primarily in the spring (Agnico Eagle 2018a). Some Arctic Char in Baker Lake migrate down the Prince River and are caught in the rapids (Agnico Eagle 2018a). It was noted that Prince River may have barriers for Arctic Char traveling to their spawning grounds because of low water levels and boulders (Agnico Eagle 2018a).

The Baker Lake community members indicated that the quality of fish depends on the year and their age; during some years, fish are thin and do not provide enough meat, but are still fed to dogs (Agnico Eagle 2018a). Baker Lake Elders explained that if fish are moved from their natural habitat to another habitat, they are unable to get the fat or nutrition they need, and ultimately, they become 'different' fish (Agnico Eagle 2018a).

7.A-2.3 Plant Harvesting

No additional IQ related to vegetation or plant harvesting was provided by community members since the FEIS submission of the Approved Project in 2016.

7.A-2.4 Use of Cultural Sites and Trails

Several Baker Lake community members described how they used to visit the Project area and travelled to Gjoa Haven during the summer or by snowmobile in the winter, using one of several travel routes (Agnico Eagle 2018a). They explained that several different communities have used the Project area, including families from Kugaaruk and Gjoa Haven in the Kitikmeot region, and there would be archaeological sites, including graves and artifacts in the Project area:

> *A group hunted around there, so they will come, there are graves, it's part of people coming down from Gjoa Haven…People go up there and come down, family to see. They get there with snowmobile takes 2 or 3 days depending on weather, but not summer – although still do spring* (Agnico Eagle 2018a p.32).

7.A-2.5 Marine Resource Harvesting

IQ, including TLRU baseline information specific to marine resources and harvesting for Chesterfield Inlet residents was gathered through a review of publicly available sources, and through consultation with Chesterfield Inlet community members and representatives for the Expansion Project. Baseline information is described below.

7.A-2.5.1 Chesterfield Inlet Regional Land Use

Country foods are a part of the traditional way of life for Chesterfield Inlet residents, and they primarily rely on caribou, fish and seal (AREVA 2011b). Hunting occurs over a large area, extending north and south of the Chesterfield Inlet waterway, and on coastal areas, ranging south to Rankin Inlet and north to Daly Bay (AREVA 2011b; Nunami Stantec 2010; Riewe 1992; KivIA 2018). Intensively used areas mapped in KivIA (2018) are

concentrated near the community and north and south of the mouth of the inlet, and moderately used areas extend west along the inlet waterway past Barbour Bay, inland areas north and south of the inlet, and coastal areas north to Whitney Inlet and south to Rankin Inlet (KivIA 2018). Elders continue to take young people out to teach them traditional skills (AREVA 2011b). Young hunters prefer to hunt in groups to save on costs, and women tend not to hunt during the cold months (AREVA 2011b). Chesterfield Inlet residents indicated that hunting is currently facilitated by the use of all-terrain vehicles and faster boats, which allows people to travel further (Golder 2014). Although some people still camp temporarily while hunting and fishing, the majority of hunters no longer live a nomadic, subsistence lifestyle (Golder 2014).

7.A-2.5.2 Country Foods and the Traditional Economy

Today, the community of Chesterfield Inlet maintains a balance between waged employment and the traditional economy. The reliance on country foods as a key part of diet has generally decreased among Nunavummiut for various reasons, including loss of traditional knowledge, increasing populations, increasing costs of hunting, pervasive poverty that constrains the pursuit of traditional activities, changing food preferences, and changing climatic conditions that restrict access to harvesting areas and impact wildlife (NFSC 2014; Hoover et al. 2016).

Despite these changes, country foods are still recognized for their nutritional value, the critical role they play in Inuit culture and their contribution to sustainable and self-reliant communities (NFSC 2014). For Inuit, hunting, harvesting, and sharing of traditional foods is integral to reinforcing social cohesion and cultural identity (CCA 2014). It is now widely recognized that food security in Nunavut is linked to the ability to access country foods, and studies have shown a correlation between country foods and harvesting activities to community wellbeing and health (Huet et al. 2012; Ford and Berrang-Ford 2009, as cited in Peterson 2012; NFSC 2014; Hoover et al. 2016). Research has shown that households with an active hunter were considered more food secure compared to households without an active hunter (Huet et al. 2012). Having access to country foods is considered critical in combating food insecurity in Nunavut's communities, and the Nunavut Food Security Coalition is promoting country food as a foundational food for Nunavummiut, with key objectives to support harvesters so they can pursue traditional livelihoods, to promote the continuation of informal country food sharing networks and to encourage the consumption of a wider variety of country food (NFSC 2014).

7.A-2.5.3 Marine Mammals

Marine mammals are harvested over a wide area, including the shores and offshore areas extending north of Chesterfield Inlet past Winchester Bay and south of Chesterfield Inlet to Rankin Inlet (AREVA 2011b, Riewe 1992, KivIA 2018). Marine mammals that are hunted include beluga, several species of seal, walrus and polar bear (AREVA 2011b; Burt and Hickes 2012; Agnico Eagle 2018a). Narwhal are also hunted near Repulse Bay, and Chesterfield Inlet residents stated that they hope to hunt Bowhead in the future (AREVA 2011b).

Seals are harvested regularly over an extensive area along the coast ranging from just north of Rankin Inlet in the south, to Whitney Inlet in the north, and along Chesterfield Inlet to Moor Island in the west (AREVA 2011b; KivIA 2018). The entire Chesterfield Inlet coastline east from Christopher Rocks Island near Baker Lake was described as an important area for seals and hunting (AREVA 2011b; Burt and Hickes 2012).

Several types of seals are hunted including ringed seal, 'jar' or 'ranger' seal, bearded seal and harp seal (Burt and Hickes 2012; AREVA 2011b). Ringed seals are the most common and are the most important locally, and they are hunted for their skins and meat (AREVA 2011b; Burt and Hickes 2012). Ringed seals are hunted year round along the coast; at breathing holes in the sea ice in winter, at the floe edge in spring, and in the open water in August by boat (Burt and Hickes 2012; Riewe 1992). 'Ranger' seals prefer shallow water around islands and are only

harvested for their fur (AREVA 2011b). They can occur up to 60 miles inland in some rivers or in lakes inland near the sea, and were reported to frequently travel up to Baker Lake though the inlet (Burt and Hickes 2012; KivIA 2018). Harp seals prefer deeper waters and are more difficult to catch (AREVA 2011b).

Belugas are the most commonly hunted whale, although Chesterfield Inlet residents indicated they do not hunt them as frequently as residents of Whale Cove or Rankin Inlet(Burt and Hickes 2012). They were reported to be hunted during their migration along the coast (Riewe 2992), north of Chesterfield Inlet waterway, past Cape Fullerton (Burt and Hickes 2012), and also in Daley Bay in the summer, off the Baker foreland during August and September, and in Chesterfield Inlet waterways near Big Island (AREVA 2011b).

Walruses are hunted at Depot island, located south of Winchester Inlet, Daly Bay areas, and near the mouth of the Chesterfield Inlet (AREVA 2011b; Riewe 1992). Although they are generally less abundant in the summer, they are hunted during this time because they are easier to catch on the ice floes (Nunami Stantec 2010). Polar bears are hunted over a wide region along the coast, extending from north of Daly Bay to Rankin Inlet in the south (AREVA 2011b, Riewe 1992). Polar bear harvesting quotas are set for each community, and in 2009, Chesterfield Inlet had an annual quota of eight to ten or twelve bears.

Chesterfield Inlet residents have observed changes in marine mammal abundance and distribution since approximately 2010, which they attribute in part to increased ship traffic in the area (AREVA 2011b; Burt and Hickes 2012; Golder 2014; Agnico Eagle 2017b; NIRB 2015a; NIRB and NWB 2017; Agnico Eagle 2018a). In particular, fewer walruses, belugas, and seals have been observed in Chesterfield Inlet and near the community, attributed to increased noise from motor boats utilized by local people and increased ship/barge traffic (AREVA 2011b; Burt and Hickes 2012; Golder 2014; Agnico Eagle 2017a; NIRB and NWB 2017; Agnico Eagle 2018a). It was also reported that marine mammal migration routes and areas of use near the community and in Chesterfield Inlet have been disrupted from ship traffic (Burt and Hickes 2012; NIRB and NWB 2017). Elders also suggested that declining food sources for marine mammals, particularly changes in capelin spawning areas potentially from increased ship traffic may also be affecting marine mammals in the Chesterfield Inlet area (Golder 2014). It was noted that residents used to be able to harvest seals, and whales close to the community, but now they have to travel 30 to 50 miles to hunt, and the issue is compounded because of the rising cost of fuel (Burt and Hickes 2012).

7.A-2.5.4 Marine Birds

Geese and ducks are hunted along the shore south of Chesterfield Inlet, extending approximately 45 kms south from the community (AREVA 2011b). Egg collecting is common in the spring, and the entire family participates (Burt and Hickes 2012). Eggs are collected from goose, eider duck, swan, guillemot and gulls (Burt and Hickes 2012). Canada geese and snow geese nests are found in the marshy areas adjacent to the Josephine River, and Eider nests are found on the islands in Chesterfield Inlet (AREVA 2011b; KivIA 2018). Snow geese also nest on Southhampton Island (KivIA 2018). Goose and duck eggs are collected at Camp Cove, Promise Island, and Wag Island (AREVA 2011b). In the past, geese, ducks and their eggs were harvested over a larger area, extending along the coast north of Chesterfield Inlet and around many of the offshore islands near Bernheimer Bay, Daly Bay, and Winchester Inlet, and along the coast south of Chesterfield Inlet to Rankin Inlet and in Mistake Bay (Riewe 1992).

7.A-2.5.5 Marine Fish

Marine and anadromous fish are considered very important to local diets and for commercial purposes (Burt and Hickes 2012, Agnico Eagle 2018a). Chesterfield Inlet Elders stated that fishing occurs along the inlet (AREVA 2009). Arctic Char is the preferred species for eating, and Lake Trout and Whitefish are also consumed (Agnico Eagle 2018a).

Arctic Char are caught inland, in the rivers and in the sea, and they are cooked, dried or eaten frozen, and the eggs are also highly valued (Burt and Hickes 2012; Riewe 1992). They are caught with gill nets set along the shores of islands and peninsulas, and along the shores of bays leading to the mouths of rivers (Burt and Hickes 2012). Arctic Char are also caught in the sea from the leads that develop in the sea ice in spring, and during most of the open water season in August and September (Burt and Hickes 2012). Specific Arctic Char fishing areas along Chesterfield Inlet identified by residents include Merles Harbor, inland and northwest of Ranger Seal Bay, Barbour Bay, near Tent Bay, Robinhood Bay, Akunak Bay and south to the interior lakes (Nunami Stantec 2010). Saqvagjuaq Inlet was also identified as a preferred Arctic Char fishing area (Nunami Stantec 2010).

Lake Trout and Whitefish are infrequently caught from the sea (Burt and Hickes 2012). Cod are sometimes consumed and are caught at leads in the sea ice, and sculpin are consumed by some Elders (Burt and Hickes 2012). Capelin mapped in KivIA (2018) occur in a few areas along the coast including near the mouth of Chesterfield Inlet, where they spawn in shallow water in July and August (Burt and Hickes 2012). Capelin are dried and consumed (Burt and Hickes 2012).

Chesterfield Inlet residents expressed concerns about shipping effects to shallow areas where they prefer to fish, especially their traditional fishing areas in the Chesterfield Inlet waterway (Burt and Hickes 2012). During interviews conducted in 2012 (Burt and Hickes), it was reported that since 2010 it has become more difficult reach their commercial fish quota compared to the period between 2001 and 2010 (Burt and Hickes 2012).

Chesterfield Inlet residents reported that in the past, many Arctic Char were caught in the waterway with red flesh which was associated with krill in their diet, but now they have pale flesh, and concerns were expressed about ship traffic potentially changing the distribution of large schools of krill (Burt and Hickes 2012). Elders also indicated that capelin populations, which marine mammals and Arctic Char depend on, have decreased which they attribute to their dispersal from spawning grounds near Chesterfield Inlet as a result of increased boat traffic in the area (Golder 2014). As a result, Arctic Char are changing their distribution and shore-set nets are not as successful catching Arctic Char compared to the past (Burt and Hickes 2012).

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