



Community Information Sessions Summary Report

For the NIRB's Assessment of
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project Proposal
related to the Whale Tail Pit Project
NIRB File No. 16MN056



Full Report Title: Community Information Sessions Summary Report. For the NIRB's Assessment of Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project Proposal related to the Whale Tail Pit Project (NIRB File No. 16MN056)

Report prepared by: Erin Reimer, Technical Advisor I
Contact: Phone: (867) 857-4566; email ereimer@nirb.ca

Photos by: Kelli Gillard (NIRB) and Derek Donald (NWB)

Cover photo: Sunrise at Whale Cove Airport

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) would like to thank all those who participated in the recent community information sessions held throughout the Kivalliq region of Nunavut as part of the NIRB's assessment of Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project proposal. The objective of these meetings was to inform the public about the proposal, what the NIRB's impact assessment process is expected to look like, and most importantly to hear the public's concerns, questions or comments about the proposal. The meetings were successful owing to the participation and assistance of local organizations, community members, and government agencies.

The NIRB would like to acknowledge the many Elders and community members who actively participated in the public meetings, sharing their Inuit Qaujimaningit with the NIRB staff and other meeting participants, along with their questions and comments about the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project proposal.

Finally, the NIRB would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the communities for the warm hospitality offered to the NIRB staff and other meeting participants during their recent visits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Project Description – Whale Tail Pit Project	1
1.1.1	Project History and Current Status	1
1.1.2	Project Components	1
1.2	Outline of the “Whale Tail Pit Expansion” Project Proposal.....	1
2	NIRB COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS	3
2.1	Overview	3
2.2	Setup of NIRB Community Information Sessions.....	3
2.3	Meeting Materials	4
2.4	Agenda and Venues of Community Information Sessions.....	4
2.5	Advertisements	5
3	MEETING NOTES FROM THE NIRB’S COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS	6
3.1	Naujaat	7
3.2	Coral Harbour	9
3.3	Rankin Inlet.....	11
3.4	Chesterfield Inlet	13
3.5	Whale Cove	15
3.6	Arviat	17
3.7	Baker Lake	17
4	SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	20

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Written Comments	A-1
-------------------	------------------------	-----

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description – Whale Tail Pit Project

1.1.1 Project History and Current Status

In March 2018, pursuant to Section 12.5.12 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 111(1) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*) the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) issued Project Certificate No. 008 for the Whale Tail Pit Project, allowing it to proceed in accordance with the Terms and Conditions issued therein.

On October 16, 2018, the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (the Commission) for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's (Agnico Eagle) "Whale Tail Pit Expansion" project proposal (Expansion Project).¹ Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.8.2(b) and 12.8.2(c) of the *Nunavut Agreement* and ss. 112(1)(b) and 112(1)(c) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB determined that the Expansion Project proposal was a significant modification to the previously approved project, and a formal reconsideration of the terms and conditions of Project Certificate No. 008 was required.² The NIRB received Agnico Eagle's Final Environmental Impact Statement Addendum (FEIS Addendum) in support of the Expansion Project proposal on December 19, 2019 and on January 10, 2019 the NIRB accepted the FEIS Addendum and initiated the public technical review.³

1.1.2 Project Components

The Whale Tail Pit Project includes the development of an open pit gold mine located on the Amaruq property approximately 150 kilometres (km) north of the hamlet of Baker Lake in the Kivalliq region. Construction began in 2018, with operations expected to commence in mid 2019 and continue to 2022, followed by site closure to 2029, ending in post-closure monitoring. Ore is trucked from the Whale Tail site via an approximately 65 km haul road to the existing Meadowbank Gold Mine for milling and process. Existing infrastructure from the Meadowbank project will be used for the Whale Tail Pit Project: specifically, marine infrastructure near Baker Lake, Meadowbank site accommodations, workshops, milling, processing, and tailings management facilities.

1.2 Outline of the "Whale Tail Pit Expansion" Project Proposal

The Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project proposal would extend activities for an additional four years with closure expected to complete in 2051. The proposed activities would overlap the physical footprint of the approved Whale Tail Pit Project as well as extend further onto the Amaruq property, and be located on Inuit-Owned Land. The project proposal includes expanded

¹ Public Registry ID: 320899

² Public Registry ID: 321033

³ Public Registry ID: 322049

development of the Whale Tail open pit, development of a new pit called the IVR open pit, associated IVR Waste Rock Storage Facility and IVR Attenuation Pond, and extend to underground mining operations. Ore would be trucked to the Meadowbank site for milling and processing.

All information received and pertaining to the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project proposal is accessible via the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125418.

2 NIRB COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

2.1 Overview

To ensure ongoing awareness of the Board's assessment process and to encourage effective participation throughout, the NIRB staff held information sessions in the communities of Naujaat, Coral Harbour, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, Arviat, and Baker Lake between February 11 and 18, 2019. Despite the NIRB's best efforts to plan the dates and route of these information sessions around specific community events, some sessions occurred at the same time as other community events.

The information sessions conducted by the NIRB had the following objectives:

- To provide an overview of NIRB's environmental impact assessment process;
- To provide information on the Expansion Project proposal and how communities and the public can be involved;
- To provide community members with opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback on the predictions contained within the FEIS Addendum including monitoring and mitigation plans for the proposed project; and
- To provide clarification on current and upcoming stages of the NIRB's process for the Expansion Project proposal.

The NIRB staff was joined by the following representatives from other agencies:

- **Nunavut Water Board:** Derek Donald
- **Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada:** Amal Roy
- **Government of Nunavut:** Alexandar Kelly
- **Kivalliq Inuit Association:** Jeff Tulugak (*Naujaat, Coral Harbour*); Jeff Hart (*Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove*); Valerie Ipkarnark (*Whale Cove*); and Hilda Panigoniak (*Arviat*).

In addition, industry representatives from Agnico Eagle were in attendance in the communities of Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, and Baker Lake.

2.2 Setup of NIRB Community Information Sessions

The public information sessions were open to all members of the public with snacks and refreshments provided, and door prizes raffled at the end of the meetings. At the meetings, all in attendance were asked to sign in and identify the community or organization they represented. To facilitate a better understanding of the assessment of the Expansion Project, the NIRB gave a PowerPoint presentation at the meeting⁴ that included a discussion of the NIRB process and next steps; information on the developments, activities, and key components proposed as part of the

⁴ Public Registry ID: 322851

Expansion Project; and impacts identified that could result from the Expansion Project should it be approved to proceed.

The presentation concluded with a discussion as to how interested parties and community members could participate in the NIRB's processes. The presentation was shown in both English and Inuktitut, discussed in English with simultaneous interpretation provided in Inuktitut. The public was encouraged to comment and ask questions relating to the NIRB's process, activities undertaken, project effects, and any concerns related to the Expansion Project proposal as well as the Whale Tail Pit Project currently being monitored. Both written and verbal comments were accepted at the meetings, with verbal comments recorded by the NIRB staff as well as by the other representatives in attendance. The interpreters provided simultaneous translations for the comments presented in Inuktitut.

2.3 Meeting Materials

At the meetings, the following materials were provided by the NIRB:

- The NIRB's PowerPoint presentation (in English and Inuktitut)
- The Final Environmental Impact Statement Addendum (electronically in English)
- The *Nunavut Agreement* (in English)
- The *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (in English and French)
- NIRB Environment Assessment Brochures (in English and Inuktitut)
- Comment Forms and Sign-In Sheets (in English and Inuktitut)

Copies of consultation materials, including the presentation, advertisements, comment forms and sign-in sheets, can be obtained from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125418.

2.4 Agenda and Venues of Community Information Sessions

The NIRB staff consulted with community organizations and considered travel requirements in determining the timing of the community information sessions. The meetings were held for 1 day in each community, starting at 7:00 pm. The NIRB visited each of the following communities:

Community	Venue	Date	Attendance
Naujaat	Community Hall	February 11, 2019	58
Coral Harbour	Qaggivik Community Hall	February 12, 2019	23
Rankin Inlet	Community Access Centre	February 13, 2019	16
Chesterfield Inlet	Community Access Centre	February 14, 2019	15
Whale Cove	John Adjuk Community Hall	February 15, 2019	32
Arviat	Recreation Complex	February 16, 2019	14
Baker Lake	Community Hall	February 18, 2019	47

2.5 Advertisements

Public notification is essential for effective public engagement and is a prerequisite of the NIRB's community information sessions. The NIRB informed the communities of the upcoming meetings through various advertisements including print media, radio, and cable advertisements. Copies of all advertisements are available on the NIRB's public registry.

MEDIA	DETAILS
NEWSPAPER	Newspaper advertisements in English, Inuktitut, and French were printed in the <i>Nunatsiaq News</i> print publication for (2) two weeks prior to the commencement of the NIRB community information sessions.
RADIO	Public service announcements in English and Inuktitut were provided to the radio station in each of the 7 communities with requests to have the announcements read on-air twice daily, beginning one (1) week prior to the day of each NIRB meeting.
POSTERS	A translated poster with the date, location and time was sent to community members, local organizations, and the Hamlet office for placement around each community. Additionally, poster placements were verified once staff arrived in each community and additional posters were placed in key business and community locations if they were not present (e.g., Northern and CO-OP stores, Hamlet offices, etc.).
CABLE	A segment on the local cable channel was posted each day for two (2) weeks prior to the meetings in both English and Inuktitut.

3 MEETING NOTES FROM THE NIRB'S COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

The following is a summary of verbal and written comments discussed during each session and have been sorted to highlight items that should be addressed through the NIRB's assessment of the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project proposal and monitoring of the Whale Tail Pit Project in general. Copies of all written comments are available in [Appendix A](#) of this report.

3.1 Naujaat



Photo 1: Naujaat Community Meeting

Subject	Issues/Comments/Concerns
Ecosystemic Topics	
Marine Mammals	Need surveys on sea mammals – more studies are needed to understand the project.
Reclamation and Closure	<p>The pits that we are discussing, are never fully back to what they were. The parts that were reclaimed and restored are not pristine. We see in Saskatchewan two pits and two big hills, waste rock was put there. We too have caribou who migrate through local area.</p> <p>We have been given a gift from God and we can hunt and live off the land. We can hunt and have been given the use of many millennia that we have lived off the land. Government of Canada has been in existence for a long time and they are starting to notice that we live here. Those before us had no medical help. We want wildlife protected because that is what is good for us, good for our soul. We want no harm to wildlife that we eat. Mining will not go on forever and there will be an end and heard from employees that land is being raped and pristine areas are being depleted. There has to be proper management and restoration. The landscape has really changed and I want proponent to take proper care. I said this but it will not be as pristine and the blizzards are very big there. Want to see and ensure reclamation, make sure snow does not gather in the pits and become a danger to anyone.</p>
Water Quality	What are they going to do with mine water? When the pits are filled with water and then released, where is it going? Does it go to the ocean or the lakes?
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	<p>With regards to the Whale Tail Pit Expansion are there any concerns from Baker lake. Any changes to the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat in that particular area?</p> <p>Looking at the map there is caribou migration in the area of the project proposal. It takes awhile for caribou to cross the water. The Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herd migrate both ways and caribou stay to eat on the transportation corridor in that area during the summer. What about the population and health of the caribou herds. Will</p>

	the hunters and trappers receive some kind of benefits package if there is an impact to their hunting area?
	Beverly Qamanirjuaq herd has not only been impacted also the one through Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet and other Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat could be impacted.
	I want to add about caribou, have you heard about populations numbers? Is it healthy? Is there a decline?
Socio-Economic Topics	
Employment	With the Land Claims Agreement in place, we hear that employment levels should be 50% Inuit. What is the percentage of Inuit employment at the Meadowbank mine site?
	Jobs at the mine site, it expensive here and lots of people looking for work.
	Where mining starts the hamlets have trouble as people are looking for better paying jobs (hamlet employees)
	We like our children to have jobs and everything is so expensive, ammo, gas, machines right now we think the people will have job for Baker Lake People and they have to say about exploration.
Shipping	Communities should be benefiting from the ships hauling materials from the mine.
Traditional Land Use Activities	Exploration was done and then we are told not to go to these areas they are working [North Arrow]; Concerns that lots of exploration is going on and during exploration community members do not have access to prime hunting areas.
Training and Education	For NIRB staff that are here I think we should get more education on mining and what is done in mining (prospecting and staking, exploration, advanced exploration, mining). Exploration doesn't mean that it could mean employment. And if there is potential of a project out here, studies would need to be done on our seas. Junior mining companies exploring in the area, they said they are just doing exploration and we find out later they want to construct a mine. We need NIRB to educate us and we only hear from mines that they are only doing exploration.
Other	
Project Infrastructure	I have a question with regards to pits, how deep are they going to be when the mining has stopped?
Public Engagement	You go to the communities, does the public have the right to say if a project should be allowed to proceed or not?

3.2 Coral Harbour

Due to a conflict in scheduling of the Community Hall, the NIRB session was rescheduled by the Hamlet of Coral Harbour to the hours of 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. New meeting times were advertised on the local radio prior to the meeting and posters were changed to reflect the new times. While the shortened meeting period resulted in an abbreviated comment period, participants were encouraged to submit remaining comments or questions to NIRB staff via written comment forms, or by phone or email.

Subject	Issues/Comments/Concerns
Ecosystemic Topics	
Marine Mammals	Marine mammals especially walrus are getting further away from Coats Island. concern with marine mammals that migrate through Coats Island and Nottingham Island. The walrus migrate past an island called Walrus Island. Concerns with the walrus moving away with ship noise. Resident wishes that walrus and Polar Bears not be disturbed.
	The mining related shipping has already impacted the marine mammals around Coral Harbour region, and they are highly concerned that the further expansion of Whale Tail project for another 4-yr period would further deteriorate the situation. Concerns over the increase of ships hauling to and from the mine site. Also concerned about the transportation of gold ore by ships and the wildlife being pushed further away from communities (marine mammals will be pushed to Quebec).
	The whales, caribou, zooplankton, and seals have all been impacted by ships.
Shipping	There was once an original agreement between the Proponent and the residents to do with ships but it is no longer followed by the Proponent, we don't know what was in the agreement.
	Question related to possible alternatives to shipping, such as Nunavut-Manitoba road to avoid impacts on marine mammals.
	Question about what shipping route will be used and effects on marine mammals. Want FEIS to include effects of the shipping traffic on marine mammals
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	Birds on Coates Island have also been affected, including their food sources from the sea.
	Although not sure if it happened because of mining, the incidence of showing up of Polar Bears in the community has been intensified. Several residents succumbed to Polar Bear attack in recent past.
Socio-Economic Topics	
Impacts to Future Generations	Concern raised about what resources will be left for future generations.
Other	

Public Engagement	Let you know I have a lot of things to say, I want to say there has always been a flow of information into coral harbour. I was invited to the hearing in Baker Lake and didn't get a proper agenda but I attended. Reps coming from Coral Harbour for technical meetings and hearings want to see better organized representatives and better organized group of people to represent the community. We would like to see more people from Coral Harbour attending the AEM meetings in Baker Lake and Rankin Inlet.
-------------------	---

3.3 Rankin Inlet

Subject	Issues/Comments/Concerns
Ecosystemic Topics	
Shipping	As an individual, marine wildlife feed me and we see lots of ships and as a result whales do not come to our area now. Seals, bearded seals and walrus do not come as frequently and the ships are affecting us.
Spill Management	When a fire is extinguished, the extinguishing fluid gets on the ground and can affect animals. How does the Proponent clean this up?
Socio-Economic Topics	
Archaeological Sites	Ancestors were here and historical sites kept in Europe how do we do that there. Archeological sites are impacted and have concerns as to how well the IIBA has been implemented in the community.
Economic Benefits	Concerns were raised that although mining companies are paying revenues to GN and there are IIBAs signed between companies and KIA, still there are housing and other problems in the community. They wonder if IIBA is being implemented properly.
Employment	Hiring people – where are the beneficiaries here to see the work and voice their thoughts why don't we have more people here to talk about their thoughts.
Traditional Land Use Activities	My parents used to walk in the area and live there. My dad used to be there and he picked up artifacts in this area. My dad used to pick up artifacts and tell stories. There are tent rings and Agnico Eagle needs to contact the people that used to live there. If my mom wasn't so scared to speak up she would talk about being there. Do you go house to house to talk to people who lived there? My dad would say "daughter there is something to know..." before he passed away and he would talk about things. Nunavut, it might be time to have meetings and not everyone will come to the meetings and speak from the heart. I need to express what my dad would say and my mom who will not speak.
	Land, water, caribou affected too. Individuals are affected the most. I am a hunter and when there is nothing to hunt we feed our families still but we may struggle. We go hunting and it costs a lot, we are facing a hard time.
Training and Education	Are there plans for developing Inuit to be engineers and to increase the education system? Look at the policy for increasing training for staff and increase Inuit engineers or surveyors. Where will Nunavut be in 20 years and how are we going to look when it comes to education? Can Agnico Eagle teach skills beyond mining?
Other	
Project Infrastructure	Want to understand that they want to mine for an additional 4 years?

Public Engagement	The concern I have is there isn't many here at public meeting. In the past years it is the organizations and bodies and there are different organizations KIA, NTI, NWB and Wildlife Board. We see them and we elect our speakers and we depend on them and we expect organizations to represent us. If they have a concern they talk to us. Yes, the organizations we elect them and they look after us and in your process you hear from them. The question I have is what do you want/expect to hear from us as community members?
	After seeing the presentation there will be many changes to the land and maybe the public is not informed enough.
	The naming of the project is confusing. Is it Whale Tail or Amaruq and is Whale Tail a new name?
	I would like to see more Inuit representatives with the GN, NWB, CIRNAC, etc. at these meetings. Why is it taking so long for organizations to have Inuit representatives?
Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit	Can you not ask to use the traditional name for the area? Not using the traditional name is ignoring the culture of those who were here first and is disrespectful.

3.4 Chesterfield Inlet

On the evening of February 14, 2019 attendees informed NIRB staff that there was a community church service also being held that evening. In addition, bingo tickets were being sold from the hall canteen for the duration of the meeting, which caused some disruption to meeting discussion.

Subject	Issues/Comments/Concerns
Ecosystemic Topics	
Marine Mammals	I have lived here a long time before mining companies came here. Before 1950 there were lots of seals, bearded seals, whales and other marine mammals around Chesterfield Inlet. Since Meadowbank started the have seen a decline in marine mammals. Can the community receive royalties or compensation for the impacts to marine mammals.
Shipping	Barges carrying supplies for the mine go through the inlet and they seem to have no trouble getting their supplies, while the community struggles to get supplies. In the summer and up until October they see ships day in and day out. We would like to see the community benefit from mining. An IIBA was never requested for the hamlet, and the community needs help with infrastructure.
	Ship markers on the beach along the narrows of Chesterfield Inlet and other shipping routes, can they be made better and not just visual? Possibly GPS or digital? Are the current markers effective?
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	GN-DoE are doing a study on caribou and have collars on caribou and you can see where they are walking around Baker Lake. The caribou are not crossing the road (All weather access road) because it is there. Inuit need to be compensated and caribou is our food. Baker Lake will be suffering as well as caribou are their food.
Socio-Economic Topics	
Archaeological Sites	Request for increased monitoring and inhouse collaboration for protection of archaeological sites and marked historic sites.
Economic Benefits	Is the community going to receive compensation for loss of marine mammals and caribou?
Employment	A certain percentage of Inuit need to be employed according to IIBA. Lots of people apply and follow the steps and training before going to the site. Only a few people that apply get to go for training. I want to see site readiness and work readiness run more often. We see a lot of people from Quebec employed. I have heard of lots of Inuit that had qualifications that were not hired, the jobs went to others. We need to encourage more Inuit to be hired.
	More Inuit need to be taken as 1st priority over non-Inuit employees. I spoke to Regional Coordinator and they only take 3 from here at a time to train. Always jobs available on website by Agnico Eagle but not enough Inuit get hired.
	Percentage of Inuit employment at site, training said supposed to be 50/50% split employment when I used to work at the assay lab at the mine I would like to ask company how they are going to achieve that so everyone can be happy.

Training and Education	When AEM began construction, they were very proactive in informing the communities. Now they are not providing updates. The Proponent provided the community with spill kits but did not train anyone to use them. If a spill occurs, no one in the community will be able to respond.
Other	
Project Infrastructure	What size will the open pit be?
	Where is the Whale Tail Expansion on the map?
Non-Inuit Harvesting	An elder has witnessed non-Inuit fishing from shipping vessels without a fishing licence when anchored in Chesterfield Inlet. Is there a term and condition in the Project Certificate regarding fishing licences?
Public Engagement	How come Agnico Eagle is not here at tonight's presentation? It is their project proposal.
	Has Agnico Eagle spoken to Baker Lake? I want to know if they have spoken to Baker Lake and how much is the expansion?
Monitoring	Are monitoring plans submitted by Agnico Eagle for the project, like the Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Plan, accessible to the public?

3.5 Whale Cove



Photo 2: Whale Cove Community Meeting

Due to a conflict in scheduling of the Community Hall, a public meeting presented by Fisheries and Oceans Canada was held at the same venue from the hours of 5:00pm to 7:00pm. While this scheduling conflict presented logistical challenges for setup of the venue, it did not significantly affect attendance.

Subject	Issues/Comments/Concerns
Ecosystemic Topics	
Fish and Fish Habitat	Are there fish in the lakes that are proposed to be dewatered? What is the fish mortality expected for the fishout program, what type of fishout program is proposed?
Impact Area	Is the Expansion Project in the Kivalliq region? It is very close to the Kitikmeot boundary.
Shipping	How many ships will the proposed project increase by?
Spill Response	If there is a spill, how would clean up occur? Mining company does not check or do proper clean up sometimes, are there emergency response plans in place for if a spill occurs?
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	Concern with noise from helicopters scaring away caribou in the area.
	Concern expressed with respect to caribou's ability to cross the haul road. Are the caribou having a hard time crossing because the slope is too steep or because the gravel material used is too coarse and sharp for caribou feet?
	Have there been studies done to determine populations of wildlife (wolf, fox, muskox, caribou) in the proposed development area?
	There is an increase in Polar Bears and an increase in seals, but in areas with development there are no seals.
	There is a lot of drilling at the mine site and activities that produce dust. Does the dust and drilling have effects on birds that migrate through the area or stop them coming there?

Socio-Economic Topics	
Archaeological Sites	Have there been archaeological studies done in the proposed development area?
Employment	More Inuit should be employed and provided more training. Inuit need to be educated and hired.
Social Impacts	The "2 week in" and "2 week out" rotation schedule for mine employees causes social and family issues, such as alcohol abuse and domestic abuse. Can Agnico Eagle invite Elders to the site regularly to provide counselling for employees? We heard that at Meadowbank still has Elders going to site and at Christmas you can fill out a form and have a spouse come and visit.
	Concern expressed that about three or four years ago, Elders passed the gate onto the access road towards Meadowbank and had an accident, losing their quad. Is there a possibility to get compensation for accidents on the road?
Training and Education	Concern expressed about relations between Quebec/French workers and Inuit employees. Concern about culturally insensitive behaviour of Quebecers towards Inuit and speaking French to Inuit instead of commonly understood English.
	Would like to see more Inuit employed at the mines. Can the Arctic college have more training available regarding all types of heavy equipment used at the mine site? Concern that despite training in the drilling experience program (Arviat), Inuit were still not hired.
Other	
Project Infrastructure - Haul Road	How much traffic will be on the haul road as result of the proposed project?
	The source of gravel as a building material for the haul road is often from blasting and results in sharp rock that caribou cannot walk on. Elders say that caribou have a sensitive part of the foot that they use to sense the terrain. Can there be a study on improving the gravel texture so it is better for animals crossing?
Project Infrastructure	Where is the Whale Tail Pit and how much is it proposed to be expanded by?
Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit	I would like more regulations to increase use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in understanding mining impacts on the wildlife. They want more people to speak Inuktitut and more training on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to understand the relevance to mining.

3.6 Arviat

Subject	Issues/Comments/Concerns
Ecosystemic Topics	
Shipping	Concern with transboundary effects and ships moving past the communities and affecting the communities such as Chesterfield Inlet. They raised the concern that barges, and ships will be routing through Chesterfield Inlet to Baker Lake. They asked if with the expansion of the project the shipping would be intensified.
Water Quality	One of the concerns I have is they use water at the site what do they do with the water, do they discharge it on the surrounding environment?
	Concern that the contaminated water does not meet the surrounding environment during operations. He mentioned that the company should have an appropriate water management plans to treat contaminated water before it is released into surrounding areas.
Socio-Economic Topics	
Archaeological Sites	The land and artifacts and historical places need to be properly managed.
Employment	I would been favour of the project proposal because it would create more jobs in community.

3.7 Baker Lake



Photo 3: Baker Lake Community Meeting

Subject	Issues/Comments/Concerns
Ecosystemic Topics	
Fish and Fish Habitat	Are there any fish in the lake that is being proposed to dewater, and if so what is the fish-out plan?
	For dewatering of the lakes and the planned fish-out, members of Baker Lake should get the most benefits as the most affected community.

Human Health	As people we are also impacted due to mining. Right now I know there is asbestos in some of the rock and we do not get proper soapstone because asbestos in the rock. It can cause fatalities if it was carved and it can impact fish, lakes and birds and any wildlife walking the tundra.
Monitoring	Need more reporting to the community from regulatory/monitoring agencies. We could then maybe start to answer those questions that we have about how the project is working now. The best legacy of a mine is to leave educated young people in the community.
Reclamation and Closure	Concern expressed about continued expansion for the approved Meadowbank and Whale Tail projects.
Water Quality	<p>When the water is diverted at the site, how long would it be diverted for and how will this effect water quality?</p> <p>They mentioned that the Baker Lake community is surrounded by many lakes and rivers. A major concern was expressed regarding the quality of water and fish as being affected by the mining activities. They raised voices saying that Baker Lake, a significant fresh water lake of the region where three major rivers, Thelon, the Kazan, and the Dubawnt flow into it, is being affected by barges that are coming into the lake. The community people are suspicious of the integrity of mining company in following the terms and conditions that are attached with the Meadowbank Project Certificate (PC). They strongly suggested for a monitoring program by the responsible regulators (DFO, ECCC, CIRNAC, NWB) to ensure that the mining company is following the assigned PC terms and conditions regarding taking care of water quality and the health of aquatic animals including fish (trout, White fish etc.) and others. The community people asked for the water quality monitoring report of the region. They particularly expressed concern regarding the quality of water of Baker Lake.</p>
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	<p>Concern regarding impacts to wildlife, especially caribou, as a result of waste rock piles destroying vegetation and habitat on closure.</p> <p>Want surveys on caribou migration corridors. From what we see with current project we see caribou not able to cross the road due to the height and crush on the sides of the road. Want studies on this and ensure road is passable.</p> <p>Helicopters are constantly hovering over caribou and caribou abundant in the Amaruq area. We have lots of radios to track when caribou are moving and when they start migrating. The proponent is adhering to the haul road rules that the caribou have the right of way but helicopters are still hovering.</p> <p>There is a bird migration route through Baker Lake to the north. A lot of these birds nest and breed in the Baker Lake area.</p> <p>Migration routes for caribou are changing as result of mining activities.</p> <p>Concern with effects on muskox. Muskox can become dangerous and at certain times of the year the bulls can become very dangerous when approached and have no fear when transport trucks approach.</p>

	Once the original AEM mine project began operation, the caribou moved away and we are seeing less. Caribou used to be relatively available for us and it is now becoming difficult to hunt them. Around 2013, a couple of us were taken to the mine site and we asked the Proponent not to build the road on the caribou migration route but we were not heard.
Socio-Economic Topics	
Archaeological Sites	There are a lot of burial sites and graves in the area of Meadowbank, and a concern regarding disturbance of these sites. The company moves the graves because they don't want to lose money, but moving a grave is not okay.
Economic Benefits	Those that grew up in that area should receive compensation from the proponent for use of the land and effects on caribou.
Employment	I would like to ask for how long would the project extend the life of the mine and would it extend the job opportunities? Job opportunities should be created for young people and new high school graduates. There should be priority hiring from Baker Lake as it is the most affected community. Lots of people would be hard off if Meadowbank were to close and kids would go hungry.
	Often people apply and are denied jobs. Even when they have grade 12 education. Young people are afraid to apply because they are afraid to be declined.
Traditional Land Use Activities	Meadowbank is open and operating and there are many lakes and lots of fishing around there. The area is disturbed and the road goes there. There is summer fishing for char, white fish and other kinds of fish and as a harvester it is hard to get to those places as result of the mining.
	Every summer I go hunting by Honda and there are no caribou on the west or east side of the road. Does the public have access past the road for hunting and fishing?
Training and Education	It would also be beneficial to see more training opportunities for our young people and want to see young people have monitoring training or guardianship training. Last 10 years it has been university kids coming north to do the work. Need community and youth to benefit from project.
Other	
Project Infrastructure - Haul Road	Comment about the Meadowbank road. I hunt in that area and there used to be an abundance of caribou. I want to see transport trucks stop when they see caribou migrating. Concern that company employees are not adhering to the term and condition of the Approved project certificate with respect to ceasing haul road traffic when caribou are cited.
	Comment on safety on the haul road for snowmobiles and ATV's interacting with heavy equipment and trucks with heavy loads.
Project Infrastructure	If the Project is approved, will there be an underground mine?
	After closure of the Meadowbank Site, will the site be open to community members to access?
	What happens to the materials in the landfill after closure?
Public Engagement	Concern that there are not very many people at the meeting. Suggestion for the NIRB to conduct a radio show while doing tours and ask how people think and provide more information.

4 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Community members provided their comments, shared knowledge, and asked questions on a variety of topics of concern at the community information sessions for the NIRB's assessment of the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project proposal. Comments and questions generally focused on ecosystemic and socio-economic components as well as some questions related to the proposed project.

The NIRB recorded numerous comments related to shipping on marine mammals and the change in distribution of many species since activities began to increase in the Hudson Bay area such as those related to the Meadowbank and Meliadine projects. This has many community members requesting updates on shipping travel routes and wildlife studies to understand the effects of project components.

Community members were also concerned with current caribou populations and the impacts that development in the region has had on herd health and size as well as on migration routes. Communities would like to hear more about the results from the numerous caribou studies conducted by the Government of Nunavut. A community member also suggested that further study is needed regarding the grain size of road building material, as it seems the size of crush currently being used is making it difficult for caribou crossing. Further concern was expressed regarding the route and design of the haul and access roads creating a barrier to caribou crossings.

The NIRB also documented concerns with the effects of project activities on freshwater quality and fish and fish habitat, including from the dewatering of lakes and treatment of mine contact water. Concerns were expressed on how Agnico Eagle has been regulating freshwater quality in their existing projects, and that community members would like to retain the traditional use of the land in the area for future generations.

Community members also expressed how the area around the proposed expansion (e.g., landscape) would change due to the activities (both approved and proposed) potentially leaving large pits and rock piles. Community members want to understand how reclamation would happen at the site and ensure that the tundra is respected and taken care of in the long term.

Many community members also discussed concerns regarding employment and education as well as the challenges of obtaining employment with Agnico Eagle. Community members suggested that additional orientation sessions and training could assist with hiring and how it would greatly assist people in smaller communities. Further, community members wanted to see more Inuit staff trained for skilled jobs such as management and engineering and this could include young people and/or recent graduates that are without employment. One community member stated that the best legacy a mine could leave is a bunch of educated kids.

Communities also wanted to know more about the Inuit Impact Benefits Agreement and how Agnico Eagle has been implementing it especially related to Inuit employment numbers as well

as wildlife compensation. Some community members wondered if there were ways for Agnico Eagle to sponsor trips back to areas around the existing project sites for individuals who were born and grew up in the area.

The NIRB heard how important Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is and how important it is to feel respected by not only using local names for project components where possible, but also respecting archaeological sites that are in the vicinity of the existing Whale Tail Pit and Meadowbank Mine projects. It is also preferable to community members that proponents avoid moving culturally significant artifacts as this is perceived as disrespectful.

The NIRB also recorded comments related to the monitoring of the existing Whale Tail Pit and Meadowbank projects, with interest expressed in having the regulatory authorities provide updates to affected communities, as they have specialities that would add to the understanding and success of projects for both communities and proponents. Further, community members want to feel involved in the monitoring of projects and understand issues now, so items can be addressed before further effects result.

All comments raised during the meetings will be considered in the assessment process going forward for the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project proposal. The report will be translated into Inuktitut and French, with electronic copies posted on the NIRB's online public registry.

Appendix A Written Comments

COMMENT FORM FOR NIRB

Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. Whale Tail Pit Expansion

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has a mandate to protect the integrity of the ecosystem for the existing and future residents of Nunavut. To assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project proposal, NIRB would like to hear your concerns, comments and suggestions about the following project proposal application:

Project Proposal Title: Whale Tail Pit Expansion

Proponent: Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.

Location:

Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:

no concerns

water quality

terrain

air quality

wildlife and their habitat —

marine mammals and their habitat —

birds and their habitat —

fish and their habitat —

heritage resources in area —

traditional uses of land —

Inuit harvesting activities .

community involvement and consultation —

local development in the area

tourism in the area

human health issues

other: _____

Please describe the concerns indicated above:

Caribou migration, calving grounds, birds habitats & fish, archaeological sites, and community involvement & consultation... these needs to be protected and address.

Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application?

Members needs more voice with indicated above ↑ and need more community development or infrastructure within municipalities, and not only Agnico-Eagle

Do you support the project proposal? Yes No Any additional comments?

Yes however, wildlife, marine mammals, caribou calving grounds, migrations, birds, fish, water / rivers including unmarked archaeological sites needs to be protected.

Name of person commenting: David

of Chester

Position: EOG

Organization: Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet

Signature: [Signature]

Date: Feb 14, 2018

COMMENT FORM FOR NIRB

Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. Whale Tail Pit Expansion

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has a mandate to protect the integrity of the ecosystem for the existing and future residents of Nunavut. To assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project proposal, NIRB would like to hear your concerns, comments and suggestions about the following project proposal application:

Project Proposal Title: Whale Tail Pit Expansion	
Proponent: Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.	
Location:	
Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:	
no concerns	traditional uses of land
<u>water quality</u>	<u>Inuit harvesting activities</u>
terrain	community involvement and consultation
air quality	local development in the area
<u>wildlife and their habitat</u>	tourism in the area
marine mammals and their habitat	human health issues
birds and their habitat	other: _____
<u>fish and their habitat</u>	_____
heritage resources in area	_____
Please describe the concerns indicated above: My concerns would be about the water quality, like some wildlife and their habitat. Animals like to drink water also I think it would affect Inuit harvesting activities. As long as they keep the environment clean.	
Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application? I would suggest my suggestion would be about the "Name" of this project be changed because I don't really like the "Name" Whale Tail, I am unfamiliar with that name since there's not much whale around Baker Lake. I would recommend that the employees be equal like there's too many french we need more Inuit people to get involved.	
Do you support the project proposal? <u>Yes</u> No	Any additional comments? Whale Tail Pit doesn't seem to be the right name, I know some people would be unfamiliar should've at least named it "Wolverine Pit"
Name of person commenting: <u>Shane Ublurik</u> of <u>Arviat NU</u>	
Position: <u>Community member</u>	Organization: <u>Nirrialik Area Comangement Committee</u>
Signature: <u>Shane U</u>	Date: <u>02/18/19</u>