

Ministre des Affaires
autochtones et du Nord



Minister of Indigenous and
Northern Affairs

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

JUL 15 2016

Ms. Elizabeth Copland
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360
CAMBRIDGE BAY NU X0B 0C0

Via email: ecopland@nirb.ca



Dear Ms. Copland:

Thank you for your letter of April 18, 2016, and the enclosed Public Hearing Report for the reconsideration of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Vault Pit Expansion Project proposal (amendment to the existing Meadowbank Gold Mine Project) and reconsideration of the relevant terms and conditions of Project Certificate No. 004.

The ministers of Transport, Environment and Climate Change, Natural Resources, Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada have the regulatory jurisdiction for authorizing the Meadowbank Project to proceed. As the responsible ministers, we have authority to accept, reject or vary the recommendations in the Report pursuant to section 12.8.3 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

As described in the Report, the Nunavut Impact Review Board has conducted a reconsideration of Project Certificate No. 004, pursuant to section 12.8.2 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, and has recommended the acceptance of the Project with modification to two of the previously approved terms and conditions, and the removal of one existing term and condition. In addition, the Board has recommended that 23 of the original Project specific terms and conditions be applied to the Vault Pit Expansion Project.

Having carefully considered the Public Hearing Report with the concurrence of the other ministers, I accept the Review Board's recommendation that the proposed additional activities and undertakings to expand the current Vault Pit operations into Phaser Lake may proceed subject to terms and conditions listed in the Public Hearing Report for Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Vault Pit Expansion Project proposal.

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This decision is also consistent with the Government of Canada's January 2016 announcement of five interim principles to guide environmental assessment decision making. The Board's review accords with those principles in that it is based on science, Inuit Qaujimaningit and other relevant evidence; provides for meaningful consultations of the Inuit and other Indigenous Peoples; and allows for due consideration of the views of affected communities.

On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Board and its staff for a thorough reconsideration process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Bennett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon. Carolyn Bennett, M.D., P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable James Gordon Carr, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.