

NIRB File No.: 16MN056 NPC File No.: 148297

July 29, 2016

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Government of Canada House of Commons Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: minister@aandnc-aandc.gc.ca; carolyn.bennett@canada.ca; and

infopubs@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Whale Tail Pit" Project Proposal

Dear Ms. Carolyn Bennett:

On June 17, 2016 the NIRB received a referral to screen Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (Agnico Eagle) "Whale Tail Pit" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission for screening, pursuant to Part 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA). Pursuant to subsection 92(4) of the NuPPAA, the NIRB hereby requests that the responsible Minister(s) extend the period for the submission of its written report for the screening of this project proposal, NIRB File No. 16MN056.

As the conformity determination noted that the proposal could be related to the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project (NIRB File No. 03MN107) and included a request from Agnico Eagle to assess the Whale Tail Pit proposal as a reconsideration of the Meadowbank Project Certificate, the NIRB circulated the reconsideration request for a period of comment. After considering submissions from parties and reviewing the project description, on July 21, 2016 the NIRB provided its determination that the Whale Tail Pit Project proposal had not been assessed as part of the original Meadowbank Gold Mine Project, and due to its location outside of the Meadowbank project footprint, would require a separate assessment under the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA). Due to the time necessary to allow interested parties to provide comments on the Whale Tail Pit Project proposal, the NIRB requires additional time to complete the screening.

Please be advised that all information pertaining to the NIRB's screening of this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

Project Name: Whale Tail Pit Project

NIRB File No.: 16MN056Application No.: 124683

The NIRB is unable to provide its written report for the screening of this project proposal within the 45 days as set out in the NuPPAA. The NIRB anticipates that the screening of this project proposal will be completed by **September 6, 2016**, at which time a screening decision report will be submitted to the responsible Minister(s) for consideration.

If this request is approved, NIRB understands that the responsible authority will notify the Proponent and the NIRB of the extension.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding this request, please contact our office toll free at 1-866-233-3033.

Sincerely,

Ryan Barry

Executive Director

Ryan Barry

Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Ryan Vanengen, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.

Stéphane Robert, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. Jamie Quesnel, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. Thomas Kabloona, Nunavut Water Board David Ningeongan, Kivalliq Inuit Association

Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board

Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association

Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada