



NIRB File No.: 16MN056

September 9, 2016

To: Whale Tail Pit screening distribution list
Kivalliq distribution list

Re: **Commencement of the NIRB's Review of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Whale Tail Pit" Project Proposal**

Dear Parties:

On September 2, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received the enclosed letter issued on behalf of the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs and the responsible Ministers of Fisheries and Oceans, Natural Resources, and Transport Canada, regarding the NIRB's August 18, 2016 Screening Decision Report for Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (Agnico Eagle) "Whale Tail Pit" proposal (NIRB File No.: 16MN056). The responsible Ministers have accepted the Board's determination that the Whale Tail Pit project proposal (NIRB File No. 16MN056) requires a full environmental review, determining that the project proposal shall be subject to Review by the NIRB pursuant to section 94(1)(a)(iv) of the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA).

The objective of this correspondence is to formally commence the NIRB's Review of the Whale Tail Pit project proposal, to outline next steps and anticipated timelines, to provide direction on how to join the email distribution list for the assessment, and to provide a *Draft Scope List* for public comment. By copy of this correspondence, the NIRB is also requesting that the project proponent, Agnico Eagle, provide a written indication regarding its intention to have a previously-filed submission stand as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Review of the Whale Tail Pit project proposal.

MINISTERIAL DIRECTION

In their referral to the NIRB, the responsible Ministers addressed the issues of cumulative effects, process coordination and participant funding raised in the Board's screening decision report, and further identified matters for the NIRB to consider as part of its Review of the Whale Tail Pit project proposal:

- "Given the current and increasing levels of mineral development in the Kivalliq Region, the Whale Tail Pit project proposal has the potential for cumulative ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts which warrant special consideration; therefore, a thorough cumulative impacts assessment will be very important for the review. However, when assessing these impacts, I urge the Board to focus its cumulative effects assessment on

impacts from reasonably foreseeable mine and transportation infrastructure developments.”

- “With respect to the request for a coordinated Nunavut Impact Review Board and Nunavut Water Board regulatory process, I agree with this suggested approach with was also effective for past reviews....a coordinated regulatory process would ensure harmonized timelines, and minimize delays in the review process while providing for a fulsome assessment.”
- “While [Participant] funding has been provided for a limited number of complex projects in Nunavut on a case-by-case basis for previous reviews, Indigenous and Northern Affairs does not have an established participant funding program. For this proposal, I am confident that the Board’s review process will provide sufficient and meaningful opportunities for potentially affected groups to effectively participate in the review.”
- “The responsible Ministers would also like to encourage the Board to make use of existing documentation from past assessments as much as possible during the review process. I propose that the Board structure the review in a manner that will facilitate a thorough, yet expeditious review of the project proposal in close collaboration with the Nunavut Water Board.”

The NIRB will ensure that consideration for the direction from the responsible Ministers is provided throughout its Review of the Whale Tail Pit project proposal.

COORDINATED NIRB-NWB PROCESS

The NIRB notes that in its original submission to the NIRB, the Proponent requested that the NIRB and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) implement a coordinated approach to the processes for NIRB’s Review and the NWB’s consideration of the Type “A” Water Licence application for the Whale Tail Pit project proposal (the Project). As noted above, the responsible Ministers have also expressed their support for this coordinated regulatory approach.

To date, the anticipated steps in the Review process and associated timelines, as described in the enclosed process map for the Whale Tail Pit project proposal, were developed by the NIRB only and may require some modification to satisfy the requested coordination with the NWB. The NIRB and the NWB will work together to develop a detailed description of the proposed file-specific coordination between the Boards for the Project and will distribute this to all parties once complete. For examples of how coordination has worked in past assessments, a public guide entitled “Detailed Coordinated Process Framework for NIRB Part 5 Reviews and NWB Licensing” was developed by the NIRB and NWB and is available from the NIRB’s online registry at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/NIRB%20NWB%20COORDINATION/>

DISTRIBUTION LIST

The enclosed correspondence from the responsible Ministers, as well as all information pertaining to the NIRB’s Review of Agnico Eagle’s “Whale Tail Pit” project proposal can be

accessed online 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.: 16MN056
- Application No.: 124683

The NIRB's online public registry will allow those interested in participating in the NIRB's Review to directly add or remove themselves from receiving notifications related to the assessment. If you, or another person or organizational contact, are interested in continuing to receive the NIRB's notification on this Project or other assessments, access the project proposal via the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca, search for the project, then select "Follow this Project" at the top of the page. If support is required to complete this sign-up, please contact info@nirb.ca for assistance.

DRAFT SCOPE LIST

The NIRB's Review process is designed to fulfill the requirements of both the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and the NuPPAA. As per s. 99(1)(a) and (b) of the NuPPAA, the first step in the Review process requires that the Board determine the **scope of the project** in relation to the project proposal that was received. The Board must include any work or activity identified in the project proposal, and any other work or activity that it considers sufficiently related to the project. The Board must also exclude any work or activity from the scope that it considers insufficiently related to the project. If the NIRB determines that an inclusion or exclusion to scope of the project should be made, the Board may only do so following consultation with the proponent and after providing consideration for any comments the proponent may make. Should the Board make an inclusion to the scope of the project, it must not proceed with its review until the Nunavut Planning Commission and responsible Ministers have had opportunity to again exercise their powers and perform their duties or functions in relation to the entire project.

Determining the **scope of the assessment** is a process that pinpoints significant issues related to the proposed project which require more detailed study and analysis. This scoping process aims to identify those components of the biophysical and/or socio-economic environment that could be impacted by the Project and for which there is public concern. The NIRB must confirm which valued ecosystemic and socio-economic components should be used to determine the potential for impacts associated with the Whale Tail Pit Project proposal through all planned project stages, including site preparation, construction, operation, modification/maintenance, decommissioning, reclamation, and abandonment.

Based on the proposed Whale Tail Pit project description as referred to the NIRB for screening on June 17, 2016, the direction received from the responsible Ministers, and the requirements of the NLCA and NuPPAA, the NIRB has developed the enclosed *Draft Scope List* (**Appendix A**). By copy of this letter, the NIRB requests that responsible authorities, parties with jurisdictional responsibility for aspects of the proposed Project and other interested parties review the enclosed *Draft Scope List* and provide comments to the Board for consideration on or before **October 11, 2016**.

The NIRB is soliciting input regarding whether the listing and description of project components and activities as outlined in the *Draft* Scope List of the Project is accurate or whether there are any specific inclusions or exclusions that should be considered. The Board also invites interested parties to comment on the *Draft* Scope List of the NIRB's Review, with the objective of ensuring all pertinent points will be addressed through the Board's assessment.

PUBLIC SCOPING SESSIONS

The NIRB's Review process requires the development of a public participation and awareness program intended to initiate engagement with the public early in the assessment and to facilitate meaningful consultation throughout the Review with those communities, groups, and individuals potentially affected by the Whale Tail Project proposal. The NIRB will be scheduling public scoping sessions throughout the Kivalliq Region to consult with the public and interested parties in person regarding the scope of the Project and the scope of the assessment, with a focus on confirming which Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) and Valued Socio-Economic Components (VSECs) should be used as the basis for the assessment.

The public scoping sessions will be designed to enable potentially impacted communities to participate directly in the NIRB's process, and will attempt to meet the following objectives:

- Inform the public of the proposed Whale Tail Pit Project under Review;
- Explain the steps of the NIRB's Review process, including how members of the public can become involved and effectively participate; and
- Work with members of the public to identify Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) and Valued Socio-Economic Components (VSECs) that should be considered in the NIRB's Review of the Project.

EIS GUIDELINES DEVELOPMENT AND SUBMISSION

In its July 6, 2016 submission to the NIRB, Agnico Eagle requested the NIRB reconsider the terms and conditions of the existing Meadowbank Gold Mine Project Certificate No. 004 and provided an addendum to its Final EIS for the Meadowbank Gold Mine (NIRB File No. 03MN107) for the proposed Whale Tail Pit Project. The NIRB recommended and the responsible Ministers have accepted that the Whale Tail Pit Project Proposal is best assessed as a new Review rather than a reconsideration of the terms and conditions of the Meadowbank Project Certificate, however, the NIRB recognizes that there is a real and substantial connection between the proposed development of the Whale Tail Pit Project and the ongoing development of the Meadowbank Gold Mine. Specifically, the Board notes that information available from the assessment of the Meadowbank Project and its ongoing monitoring program may further support the NIRB's Review of the proposed Whale Tail Pit Project. Given the responsible Ministers' encouragement to facilitate a thorough yet expeditious review of the project proposal and to make use of existing documentation from past assessments as much as possible during the Review process, the NIRB acknowledges that the addendum to the previously reviewed EIS provided by Agnico Eagle on July 6, 2016 may contain sufficient information to constitute an EIS that supports the NIRB's Review of the proposed Whale Tail Pit Project.

The NIRB would like to provide Agnico Eagle with an opportunity to confirm whether it wishes to have its July 6, 2016 submission considered as the Proponent's EIS submission for the NIRB's

Review. In addition, the NIRB requests that the Proponent advise the NIRB as to whether or not it anticipates providing additional supplemental information to further support its submission. If confirmed that previous submission should be considered as the proponent's EIS submission (with or without supplemental submissions), the NIRB will evaluate the submission(s) provided to determine whether, in the Board's view, the submission(s) satisfies the minimum EIS requirements set out in NLCA Section 12.5.2 and NuPPAA Section 101(3) such that a public technical review may be initiated. During the NIRB's review of the adequacy of the submission(s), the NIRB will give due consideration to any comments received pertaining to the *Draft Scope List* as may be applicable.

The NIRB respectfully requests that Agnico Eagle provide a written indication to the Board on or before **September 30, 2016** regarding its intention to have the July 6, 2016 submission (with or without supplemental submissions) considered its EIS submission for the Review of the Whale Tail Pit project proposal.

NEXT STEPS

For the information and planning of parties, the NIRB has enclosed a more detailed Review process map and anticipated timeline for the Board's Review of Agnico Eagle's proposed Whale Tail Project. Please note that this timeline is subject to change based on project-specific circumstances, coordination efforts with the NWB, feedback received from parties, and the NIRB's discretion. The NIRB invites interested parties to include feedback on the draft process map with their respective comments on the *Draft Scope List*, due on or before **October 11, 2016**.

In summary, the following provides an overview of upcoming submission dates:

September 30, 2016	The NIRB receives Proponent's written indication of intention regarding July 6, 2016 submission
October 11, 2016	The NIRB receives parties' comments regarding the <i>Draft Scope List</i>
October 2016	The NIRB conducts community information sessions in all Kivalliq communities
November 10, 2016	The NIRB releases <i>Final Scope List</i> for information

Please direct all comment submissions to the NIRB via fax to **(867) 983-2594** or via email at info@nirb.ca.

If you have any questions regarding the NIRB's Review of the Whale Tail Project, please contact the undersigned directly at tarko@nirb.ca or by phone at (867) 983-4611.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Ryan Vanengen, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
Stéphane Robert, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
Jamie Quesnel, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
Larry Connell, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Tina Price, Government of Nunavut
Tineka Simmons, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Georgina Williston, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Elizabeth Patreau, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Rob Johnstone, Natural Resources Canada
Rachelle Besner, Natural Resources Canada
Transport Canada

Attached: Appendix A: Draft Scope List for the Whale Tail Pit Project Proposal

Enclosed (2): Letter from INAC to NIRB Re Ministers Decision (September 2, 2016)
Draft Process Map for NIRB's Review of the Whale Tail Pit project proposal

APPENDIX A
DRAFT SCOPE LIST FOR THE WHALE TAIL PIT PROJECT PROPOSAL

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or the Board) is seeking feedback from interested parties to determine the scope of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (Agnico Eagle or the Proponent) proposed "Whale Tail Pit" project proposal (scope of the project) and the scope of the NIRB's Review of this project proposal (scope of the assessment).

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

Project Description, including the purpose and need for the Project

The scope of the project proposal includes all physical works, activities, and/or undertakings, as scoped by the NIRB on June 17, 2016 for the Whale Tail Pit Project and encompasses the entire project life.

a. Project Proposal Summary

The Whale Tail Pit project (the Project) is a proposed open pit gold mine located at the Amaruq property, approximately 150 kilometres (km) north of the hamlet of Baker Lake and approximately 50 km northwest of Meadowbank Gold Mine Project within the Kivalliq region. Agnico Eagle proposes development of the Whale Tail Pit project to continue employment and transition operations between the Meadowbank Project, which is at the end of its operations and the Meliadine Project, which is in early construction. Construction is proposed to take approximately one (1) year beginning in early 2018, operations expected to commence in late 2018 and continue for three (3) to four (4) years, followed by closure of the site over approximately 7 years, from 2019 to 2022 ending in post closure monitoring. Development of the pit is intended to allow for access to an estimated 8.3 million tonnes (Mt) of ore, and produce 46.7 Mt of waste rock and 5.8 Mt of overburden.

Ore would be trucked by road at a rate of 9,000 to 12,000 tonnes per day to the existing Meadowbank Gold Mine¹ for milling. The approximate tailings produced from the milling process would be stored at the Meadowbank site, and in the tailing storage facility within an isolated cell at the south end of the facility.

Existing ancillary infrastructure used for the Whale Tail Pit Project would include Agnico Eagle's existing marine infrastructure which would support open-water shipping during the construction phase and annual resupply during operations, with the mine product, dore gold bars, to be flown to market directly from site.

¹ The NIRB has previously reviewed the related but distinct Meadowbank Gold Mine project (NIRB File No. 03MN107) in accordance with Part 5 of Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). The Meadowbank Mine project was allowed to proceed pursuant to the NIRB Project Certificate No. 004 which was issued December 30, 2006.

It is anticipated that up to 500 employees would be required during the construction phase for the proposed project, including for dewatering, with an on-site labour requirement of up to 931 people on rotation during operations.

b. Project Components

i) Meadowbank Mine Site

Activities and Facilities would include use of existing infrastructure at the Meadowbank Mine site and ongoing use of resources as previously approved, specifically:

- the camp to accommodate personnel;
- airstrip and road between Baker Lake and the mine site;
- facilities including maintenance shops, administration buildings, power generators, mine dry (to include lockers, sinks, and changing rooms for personnel), reagent storage areas, fuel storage, landfill, waste and hazardous materials storage area, incinerator, sewage treatment plant, landfarm, ore storage, and surface water management (to include pollution and sediment control or supernatant ponds);
- operation of mill and batch plant;
- tailings conveyance, waste and hazardous wastes storage; and
- potable water sourced from Third Portage Lake, mill water sourced from the reclaim pond located near the mill.

ii) Baker Lake Docking Facility

Activities and Facilities would include ongoing use of existing barge unloading facilities, laydown storage and marshalling area, 60-million litre fuel tank farm, and interconnecting roads.

iii) Whale Tail Pit

Note: Whale Tail Pit project infrastructure is separate from, and in addition to, infrastructure previously screened and approved by the NIRB for Agnico Eagle's exploration program at the Amaruq site, NIRB File No. 11EN010).

Activities and Facilities would include the development of one open pit mine located within the Amaruq property, construction of temporary dikes in Whale Tail Lake and Mammoth Lake, the partial dewatering and fishout of Whale Tail Lake (north basin) with discharge of the water into the south basin of Whale Tail Lake or into Mammoth Lake. Mine infrastructure development, specifically camp and accommodations for 210 personnel, power plant, helipad, maintenance shop, bulk fuel storage facility (approximately 500,000 litre capacity), waste rock storage facility, ore stockpiling facility, crushing facility, laydown area. Construction of water management infrastructure and water treatment facilities to include: contact and fresh water collection ponds, diversion channels, retention dikes, dams and culverts, a water treatment plants, sewage treatment plant, discharge diffuser, and construction of the Whale Tail attenuation pond to contain discharge of treated sewage and site contact water before being discharged into Mammoth Lake. Potable water for the Whale Tail camp sourced from Nemo Lake and Whale Tail Lake (south basin) while non-contact water to be diverted from site through channels and dikes, with additional water raising the water level of Whale Tail Lake (south basin) to be discharge into Mammoth Lake through a southwest diversion channel.

iv) Mobilization and Shipping

Activities and Facilities would include annual sealift delivery of fuel, equipment and supplies to the Baker Lake marshalling facility during the ice-free (open water) season, use of laydown areas at various project sites, shipping of doré gold bars off site via air, as well as extension and widening of previously approved Amaruq exploration road into a haul road 6.5 metres to 9.5 metres wide, closed to the public.

v) Abandonment, Decommissioning and Reclamation

Activities and Facilities would include closure and remediation of the Whale Tail Pit infrastructure, removal of site infrastructure and flooding of the mined-out open pit, as well as closure and remediation of milling and tailings facilities at the Meadowbank site.

SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT

1) Anticipated ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts of the Project

The assessment of the potential for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts to result from the proposed project components and activities as outlined in the section above will be inclusive of the factors listed below. The assessment of impacts to each valued ecosystemic or socio-economic component shall take into account appropriate temporal and spatial boundaries and draw upon relevant information from scientific sources, Inuit Qaujimaningit², traditional and community knowledge.

- a.** Air quality
- b.** Climate and meteorology
- c.** Noise and vibration
- d.** Terrestrial environment, including:
 - i) Terrestrial ecology
 - ii) Landforms and soils
 - iii) Permafrost and ground stability
- e.** Geological features including discussion of geology and geochemistry
- f.** Hydrological features and surface water quality
- g.** Hydrogeology and groundwater
- h.** Sediment quality
- i.** Freshwater aquatic environment, including:
 - i) Aquatic ecology
 - ii) Aquatic biota including representative fish as defined in the *Fisheries Act*, aquatic macrophytes, benthic invertebrates and other aquatic organisms
 - iii) Habitat including fish habitat as defined in the *Fisheries Act*
 - iv) Commercial, recreational, and Aboriginal fisheries as defined in the *Fisheries Act*
- j.** Terrestrial vegetation
- k.** Terrestrial wildlife and wildlife habitat, including:

² Inuit Qaujimaningit encompasses Inuit traditional knowledge (and variations thereof) as well as Inuit epistemology as it relates to Inuit Societal Values and Inuit Knowledge (both contemporary and traditional).

- i) Representative terrestrial mammals to include caribou, caribou habitat, migration and behavior, muskoxen, wolverine, grizzly bears, Polar Bears, wolves and less conspicuous species that may be maximally exposed to contaminants
 - ii) Wildlife migration routes and crossings
- l.** Birds and bird habitat, including:
 - i) Raptors
 - ii) Migratory birds
 - iii) Seabirds
- m.** Marine environment, including:
 - i) Marine ecology
 - ii) Marine water and sediment quality
 - iii) Marine biota including fish and benthic flora and fauna
 - iv) Marine habitat
 - v) Commercial, recreational, and Aboriginal fisheries as defined in the *Fisheries Act*
- n.** Marine wildlife
- o.** Terrestrial and marine Species at Risk
- p.** Socio-economic factors, including:
 - i) Economic development opportunities
 - ii) Employment
 - iii) Education and training
 - iv) Contracting and business opportunities
 - v) Population demographics
 - vi) Benefits and revenues (tax, royalties, etc.)
- q.** Traditional activity & knowledge and community knowledge including
 - i) Land use
 - ii) Food security
 - iii) Language
 - iv) Cultural and commercial harvesting
- r.** Non-traditional land use and resource use
- s.** Heritage resources
 - i) Archaeology
 - ii) Paleontology
 - iii) Cultural
- t.** Health and well being
 - i) Individual and community wellness
 - ii) Family and community cohesion
- u.** Community infrastructure and public services
- v.** Health and safety including employee and public safety
- w.** Residual and cumulative effects, giving specific consideration to the project in terms of existing, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable future mining and transportation infrastructure projects, with specific consideration of the Meadowbank Gold Mine
- x.** Transboundary effects

2) *Anticipated Effects of the Environment on the Project*

The scope of the assessment will include the potential for the Arctic environment to exert effects on the project throughout the project's life, including the following specific factors:

- a.** Climate and meteorology including climate change,
- b.** Permafrost,
- c.** Geotechnical hazards including slope movement, differential or thaw settlement, frost heave, and ice scour,
- d.** Subsidence,
- e.** Flooding, and
- f.** Unfavorable geological conditions.

3) *Steps which the proponent proposes to take including any contingency plans, to avoid and mitigate adverse impacts*

The scope of the assessment will include any contingency plans or risk management plans to avoid and mitigate adverse impacts caused by the proposed project components and activities. These plans must extend, where relevant, through all project phases. These plans shall take into account the appropriate temporal and spatial boundaries and are expected to draw upon relevant information from scientific sources, best practice as well as traditional and community knowledge and are to include, but not be limited to:

- a.** Emergency and spill response,
- b.** Hazardous materials management,
- c.** Accidents and malfunctions,
- d.** Regulatory requirements, and
- e.** Mitigation measures.

4) *Steps which the Proponent proposes to take to optimize benefits of the Project, with specific consideration being given to expressed community and regional preferences as to benefits*

The scope of the assessment will include steps that the Proponent proposes to take to optimize benefits of the project, and should include, but not be limited to:

- a.** Compensation and benefits,
- b.** Health benefits,
- c.** Human health and well-being,
- d.** Employment,
- e.** Education and training,
- f.** Land use,
- g.** Contracting and business opportunities, and
- h.** Any non-confidential details from an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement.

6) *Steps which the Proponent proposes to take to compensate interests adversely affected by the Project*

The scope of the assessment will include the steps that the Proponent proposes to take to compensate interests of parties adversely affected by the Project including all non-confidential details pertaining to any Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement pursued in connection with the Project.

7) *The monitoring programs proposed by the Proponent to identify and manage ecosystemic and socio-economic interests potentially affected by the Project*

The scope of the assessment will include any programs that would be established to monitor the potential ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts caused by the proposed project components and activities.

8) *The interests in lands, waters and other resources which the Proponent has secured or seeks to secure*

The scope of the assessment will include consideration for any interests in lands, waters and other resources which the Proponent has secured or seeks to secure based on the proposed works and activities or undertakings that constitute the Whale Tail Pit project proposal.

Nunavut Impact Review Board	Project Certificate
Nunavut Water Board	Type 'A' Water Licence
Kivalliq Inuit Association	Land Use Licences, leases, easements, right-of-ways, and Quarry Concession Permit(s)
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.	Mineral Production Lease
Government of Nunavut – Community & Government Services	Right-of-Way approval
Government of Nunavut – Department of Culture and Heritage	Archaeology Permit(s) and Palaeontology Permit(s)
Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment	Wildlife Research Permit
Nunavut Research Institute	Socio-economic & Traditional Knowledge Research Licence, Scientific Research Licence
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada	Right-of-Way Approval
Environment Canada	Schedule 2 Amendment to Metal Mining Effluent Regulations
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Section 35 authorization under the <i>Fisheries Act</i>
Natural Resources Canada	Licence for a Factory and Magazine
Transport Canada	Navigable Waters Approval(s) and/or Exemption(s) and Oil Pollution Prevention/Emergency Plan as per the <i>Canada Shipping Act</i>

9) *Options for implementing the Project*

The scope of the assessment will include consideration for project alternatives including alternatives to individual components/activities, alternate timing and development options, as well as presenting the “no go” option as it pertains to the overall Project.

10) *Any other relevant matters*

The scope of the assessment will include any other matters that the NIRB considers relevant, including:

- a.** Technical innovations previously untested in the Arctic including new technology for mine design, operation, and tailings management;
- b.** Inuit Qaujimaningit, traditional and community knowledge;
- c.** Statement of consultation principles and practices;
- d.** Significant effects analysis;
- e.** Sustainability analysis;
- f.** Interactions with Valued Ecosystem Components and Valued Socio-Economic Components;
- g.** Discussion of similar resource development projects in other jurisdictions; and
- h.** Planned future development and the associated level of uncertainty.

The NIRB also notes encouragement received from the responsible Ministers to make use of existing documentation from past assessments as much as possible during the Review process for the Whale Tail Pit project proposal.