



NIRB File No.: 16MN056

September 22, 2016

His Worship Bob Leonard
Hamlet of Arviat
P.O. Box 150
Arviat, NU X0C 0E0
Email: mayor@arviat.ca

His Worship Joedee Joedee
Hamlet of Baker Lake
P.O. Box 149
Baker Lake, NU X0C 0AO
Email: blasao@netkaster.ca

His Worship Barney Aggark
Chesterfield Inlet
P.O. Box 10
Chesterfield Inlet, NU X0C 0B0
Email: chester_mayor@qiniq.com

His Worship Jackie Netser
Coral Harbour
P.O. Box 30
Coral Harbour, NU X0C 0C0
Email: mayor_ch@qiniq.com

His Worship Robert Janes
Hamlet of Rankin Inlet
P.O. Box 310
Rankin Inlet, NU X0C 0G0
Email: hydra@qiniq.com

His Worship Solomon Malliki
Hamlet of Nauyasat
P.O. Box 10
Nauyasat, NU X0C 0H0
Email: mayor@repulsebay.ca

His Worship Stanley Adjuk Sr.
Hamlet of Whale Cove
P.O. Box 120
Whale Cove, NU X0C 0J0
Email: mayor@whalecove.ca

Sent via email

Re: NIRB Scoping Meetings for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited'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) and Article 12, Part 5 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

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.

In their referral to the NIRB, the responsible Ministers noted that the board should consider cumulative effects in sufficient detail through the assessment. The Minister's decision, as well as all information pertaining to the NIRB's Review of this project proposal is available online from the Board's public registry www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Whale Tail Pit Project
- NIRB File No.: 16MN056
- Application No.: 124683

As per s. 99(1)(a) and (b) of the NuPPAA, the first phase of the NIRB's Review process requires the Board to verify the **scope of the project** proposal and the assessment with the public and potentially-affected communities. The NIRB's assessment will include specific opportunities for engagement with potentially impacted communities, and will be offering community scoping sessions in the Kivalliq Region to consult with the public and interested parties regarding the scope of the Project and the scope of the assessment, with a focus on confirming valued components of the ecosystem and communities which should be specifically included through the NIRB's Review and Final Hearing Report for the proposed Whale Tail Pit Project.

On September 9, 2016 the NIRB provided the Proponent and the public with notice of public scoping sessions to be held in October 2016. The following provides a detailed schedule for the tour:

Community	Location	Date	Function	Time
Chesterfield Inlet	Community Hall	October 17, 2016	Open House	2-4 p.m.
			Scoping Meeting	7 p.m.
Coral Harbour	Community Hall	October 18, 2016	Open House	2-4 p.m.
			Scoping Meeting	7 p.m.

Naujaat	Community Hall	October 19, 2016	Open House	2-4 p.m.
			Scoping Meeting	7 p.m.
Baker Lake	Community Arena	October 20, 2016	Open House	2-4 p.m.
			Scoping Meeting	7 p.m.
Rankin Inlet	Community Hall	October 21, 2016	Open House	2-4 p.m.
			Scoping Meeting	7 p.m.
Whale Cove	Community Hall	October 22, 2016	Open House	2-4 p.m.
			Scoping Meeting	7 p.m.
Arviat	Community Hall	October 25, 2016	Open House	2-4 p.m.
			Scoping Meeting	7 p.m.

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.

By copy of this letter the NIRB extends an invitation to your organization to participate in these meetings to discuss Agnico Eagle's Whale Tail Pit project proposal and any associated concerns or input you may wish to provide.

The NIRB's staff will deliver a formal scoping presentation and provide parties with an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the Review of the proposed Whale Tail Pit proposal during the meetings to be held in each of the Kivalliq communities between **October 17-25, 2016**. Afternoon sessions will be offered from 2:00-4:00 p.m. to provide community members with an opportunity to stop by and discuss the project with the NIRB staff, followed by an evening meeting to provide a presentation and more formal opportunity for community members to provide feedback starting at 7 p.m.

Please note that your organizations have also been included on the distribution of previous correspondence seeking written comments on the draft scope and process for the assessment, and in addition would hope that you will participate in these face-to-face meetings and take advantage of the opportunity to contribute to the NIRB's environmental assessment of the Whale Tail Pit project proposal.

We look forward to meeting with you in October; should you have any questions regarding the upcoming meetings or the NIRB's Review of the Whale Tail Pit project proposal, please contact Sophia Granchinho, Manager, Impact Assessment, at sgranchinho@nirb.ca or (867) 857-2052.

Sincerely,



Tara Arko
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Whale Tail Pit Distribution List
 Kivalliq Distribution List
 Ryan Vanengen, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
 Stéphane Robert, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
 David Hohnstein, Nunavut Water Board
 Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board
 Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
 Tina Price, Government of Nunavut
 Tineka Simmons, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

Enclosure: Letter from INAC to NIRB Re Ministers Decision (September 2, 2016)