



**NIRB File No.: 16MN056**

November 10, 2016

To: Whale Tail Pit Project Distribution List

Re: **Final Scope and Acceptance of Environmental Impact Statement for Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Whale Tail Pit" Project Proposal**

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Dear Parties:

On September 9, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) distributed a request for public comments on the *Draft* Scope for the assessment of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (Agnico Eagle or Proponent) "Whale Tail Pit" project proposal (the Project). Within its correspondence, the NIRB also requested that the Proponent provide a written indication regarding its intention to have the July 6, 2016 submission stand as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Review of the Whale Tail Pit project proposal.

#### SCOPE LIST

On or before October 11, 2016 the NIRB received comments on the *Draft* Scope from the following interested parties:

- Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA)
- Government of Nunavut (GN)
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- Fisheries and Ocean Canada (DFO)
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)
- Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)
- Transport Canada (TC)

Submissions can be accessed online from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://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 parties are aware, the NIRB facilitated public scoping meetings in Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Nauyasat, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, Arviat, and Baker Lake between October 17, 2016 and October 27, 2016. The feedback provided by community members during the NIRB's

scoping meetings summary report has now been considered by the Board and a public summary report from these sessions is currently being prepared and will be distributed for the information of all parties as soon as possible.

Following consideration of the written comments provided by parties, and the input provided through community scoping sessions, the NIRB is enclosing the Final Scope for this assessment for the information of parties.

In addition to parties' comments on the *Draft Scope*, clarification was requested on how the assessment would consider the impacts from the Project's use and reliance on facilities associated with the Meadowbank Gold Mine project, currently operating under NIRB Project Certificate No. 004. Acknowledging the connection between the proposed development of the Whale Tail Pit Project and the ongoing operation of the Meadowbank Gold Mine project, Agnico Eagle will be required to demonstrate adequate consideration for potential cumulative effects from these developments. Information available from the assessment of the Meadowbank project and its ongoing monitoring program may be considered during the NIRB's Review of the proposed Whale Tail Pit project, and should it be determined during the assessment that amendments would be required to the Meadowbank project, the impacts would also be considered in a coordinated manner with this assessment.

#### SUBMISSION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

On September 30, 2016 Agnico Eagle provided a written submission to the NIRB, confirming that it deemed its July 6, 2016 submission sufficient to address the EIS requirements, and requesting that the NIRB consider it as an EIS for the purpose of supporting a public technical review for the Project. Agnico Eagle requested in both its July and September correspondence that the NIRB and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) assess the project proposal using the full coordination process including coordinated NIRB and NWB technical review comment periods and technical meetings and if possible, public hearings.

Following a cursory review of the July 6, 2016 submission from Agnico Eagle, in the Board's view, the submission satisfies the minimum EIS requirements set out under Section 12.5.2 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and subsection 101(3) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*. As such, the NIRB is prepared to allow this submission to stand as an EIS for the public review of the Project. The NIRB and NWB are currently developing a detailed description of the planned coordination between the Boards for the Project and have scheduled internal meetings later this month to facilitate the required discussions. Following these meetings the NIRB intends to issue further direction to all parties regarding the specific areas of planned NIRB/NWB process coordination and will commence the public technical review for the EIS by providing opportunity for the submission of information requests by interested parties.

#### NEXT STEPS

The NIRB appreciates the feedback and support provided by all parties in developing the enclosed Final Scope for the Review of the Whale Tail Project. The NIRB intends to initiate the public technical review of the EIS for the Project in the coming weeks, and the Board will

provide additional direction on requested feedback, timelines and process coordination with the NWB at that time.

If you have any questions regarding the NIRB's Review of the Whale Tail Pit project proposal, please contact Sophia Granchinho, Manager, Impact Assessment at [sgranchinho@nirb.ca](mailto:sgranchinho@nirb.ca) or by phone at (867) 857-2052.

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  
Government of Nunavut  
Tineka Simmons, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency  
Melissa Pinto, Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Elizabeth Patreau, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada  
Charlotte Lamontange, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada  
Jason Patchell, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada  
Rachelle Besner, Natural Resources Canada  
Christopher Aguirre, Transport Canada

Enclosure (1): *Final Scope List for the Whale Tail Pit Project Proposal*