



**NIRB File No.: 11EN010**  
NIRB Application No.: 125071  
NPC File No.: 148399

March 14, 2017

Ryan Vanengen  
Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.  
93 rue Arseneault, Suite 202  
Val d'Or, QC J9P 0E9

Sent via email: [ryan.vanengen@agnicoeagle.com](mailto:ryan.vanengen@agnicoeagle.com)

**Re: Opportunity to address comments received regarding Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Pilot study – Hovercraft Implementation in Nunavut" project proposal, NIRB File No. 11EN010**

Dear Ryan Vanengen:

On December 23, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (Agnico Eagle) "Pilot study – Hovercraft Implementation in Nunavut" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission) with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan.

On February 14, 2017 the NIRB circulated a public notice of the screening for this project, inviting interested parties to provide comments directly to the NIRB by March 7, 2017.

On or before March 7, 2017 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA)
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)
- Transport Canada (TC)

All comment submissions received by the NIRB relating to this project proposal can be obtained 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: Pilot study - Hovercraft Implementation in Nunavut
- NIRB File No.: 11EN010
- Application No.: 125071

A *summary* of the public concerns reflected in the comment submissions relate to the following:

### Wildlife

- Concerns related to wildlife and their habitat, marine mammals and their habitat, birds and their habitat, fish and their habitat, heritage resources in the area, traditional uses of land, Inuit Harvesting activities, community involvement and consultation, and local development in the area.
- Opposition to and no support for the usage of Hovercraft technology as the proposal has no baseline information on wildlife, marine mammals, birds, fish and their habitats, heritage resources, traditional land uses, Inuit harvesting activities, community involvement and consultation and local development.
- Potential for destruction of nests by hovercraft on passages; and for disturbing/stressing broods and molting waterfowl using large waterbodies.
- Lack of local information on bird use or abundance along the proposed routes making it difficult to assess the impacts without understanding how many nests and birds may be impacted based on existing on-site monitoring.
- Potential for cumulative effects on migratory bird populations through many different incidents.
- Proponent reminded that it is their responsibility for taking appropriate measures to not conduct potential destructive or disruptive activities at key locations or during key periods to avoid detrimental effects to migratory birds.
- Concern regarding the disturbance of marine mammals and that areas should be surveyed to avoid disturbing them.
- Measures provided for the protection of freshwater habitat including fish and fish habitat.

### Cumulative Effects Assessment

- Concern over the cumulative effects of the proposed Hovercraft pilot project as the project site is already in an area under intense activity pressure with the presence of the Amaruq single land access road and with the addition of traffic from the proposed Whale Tail Pit project.
- Assessment of potential cumulative impacts is warranted potential cumulative impacts of the project as a whole, including the activities of this project amendment and the other past and reasonably foreseeable projects in the area should be addressed.

### New technology and vessel requirements

- Sensitivity of the use of Hovercraft technology as novel technology within Nunavut and on Inuit Owned Land and support for its use on Inuit Owned Land cannot be provided.
- All small commercial marine vessels between 15 and 150 gross tonnage requires inspection and certification by Transport Canada.

### Updates to plans

- Current work plan by Agnico Eagle does not contemplate the use of hovercraft technology and the necessary application to amend the work plan should be provided to ensure regulators are better informed of the use of this type of technology.

The NIRB would like to provide Agnico Eagle with an opportunity to address the comments noted above prior to the Board rendering its determination for this screening assessment and

issuing its subsequent Screening Decision Report to the responsible Minister(s). The NIRB respectfully requests that a response be provided directly to the NIRB by **March 28, 2017**.

If Agnico Eagle determines that the time required to supply a written response is significantly greater than two (2) weeks, the Board requests written notification and an anticipated date for submission be provided as soon as possible.

Please send any forthcoming submissions directly to the NIRB at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), or through the online public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact the undersigned directly at (867) 857-4829 or [sgranchinho@nirb.ca](mailto:sgranchinho@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Sophia Granchinho, M.Sc., EP  
Manager, Impact Assessment  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc:                    Distribution List  
                      Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.  
                      Stéphane Robert, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.  
                      Jamie Quesnel, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.  
                      Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board  
                      Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
                      Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
                      Gabriel Karlik, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
                      Charlotte Lamontagne, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada  
                      Norman Scully, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada  
                      Melissa Pinto, Environment and Climate Change Canada  
                      Kathleen Buck, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
                      Christopher Aguirre, Transport Canada