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your organization or those of the community. Please note that the NIRB and the NWB are also in contact with other organizations and groups in your community to invite participants to attend the upcoming NIRB and NWB Pre-Hearing Conference.

Once representatives have been appointed by your organization, please provide them with all of the information contained within this letter:

- 1) Appendix A contains information on the PHC and direction on the community representatives' role during the PHC;
- 2) Appendix B contains a description of the Whale Tail Pit Project proposal; and
- 3) Appendix C is required to designate the appointed representative.

Please have the community representatives complete the following form and submit it to the NIRB office at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or via fax (867) 983-2594 by **April 3, 2017**.

1. Community Representative Information Form (attached Appendix C).

All information pertaining to Whale Tail Pit Project proposal as received by the NIRB 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

All information pertaining to the Type "A" Water Licence Application and associated documents for the Whale Tail Pit project can be accessed online from the NWB's online public registry at [ftp://ftp.nwb-oen.ca/registry/2%20MINING%20MILLING/2A/2AM%20-%20Mining/2AM-WTP----%20Agnico/](http://ftp://ftp.nwb-oen.ca/registry/2%20MINING%20MILLING/2A/2AM%20-%20Mining/2AM-WTP----%20Agnico/).

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) 857-4829. If you have any questions on the NWB's consideration of the Water Licence Application, please contact Karén Kharatyan, Acting Manager, Licensing at [karen.kharatyan@nwb-oen.ca](mailto:karen.kharatyan@nwb-oen.ca) or by phone at (867) 360-6338 (ext. 35).

Thank you in advance for nominating a representative to participate in the NIRB and the NWB's Pre-Hearing Conference for the proposed Whale Tail Pit Project and associated Water Licence Application. We look forward to working with your selected representative at the Pre-Hearing Conference.

Sincerely,



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

Sincerely,



Karén Kharatyan, Ph.D.  
Acting Manager, Licensing  
Nunavut Water Board

cc: Robert Seeteenak, Senior Administrative Officer  
Bert Dean, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Qovik Netser, Kivalliq Wildlife Board

Attachments (3): Appendix A - Role of Community Representative  
Appendix B - Project Description in English and Inuktitut  
Appendix C - Community Representative Information Form

## Appendix A: Community Representative's Role

Members of the public have important information and Inuit Qaujimaningit and/or Traditional Knowledge that the NIRB considers critical to its environmental assessment process and that the NWB considers critical to its water licencing process. The Pre-Hearing Conference allows a community representative an opportunity to ask the Proponent (the company), government representatives from the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada, and the Regional Inuit Association questions about the proposed project.

The Pre-Hearing Conference is structured as follows:

LOCATION	DATE	TIME	SCHEDULE
Baker Lake Community Hall	April 30, 2017	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Evening Presentation
Baker Lake, Community Hall	May 1, 2017	9:00 am – 5:00 pm; 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Community Roundtable Session Evening Session
	May 2, 2017	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Community Roundtable Session Pre-Hearing Conference
	May 2, 2017	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Pre-Hearing Conference Closing Remarks

**\*NOTE:** The NIRB may, in its discretion, extend any day session into an evening session if required.

Community representatives are provided with an opportunity to share any comments, questions or concerns with the NIRB and the NWB at the Community Roundtable which could be considered as the Boards make their recommendation to the Proponent within the Boards' PHC Decision Report. Community representatives are asked to speak during the Community Roundtable on behalf of themselves, a community organization, or express community concerns, questions or thoughts in regards to the proposed project. As a representative, you are encouraged to speak with other members of your community or organization to ensure a broad understanding of the community's ideas or concerns about the project and, at a minimum, provide information on the following questions:

1. How might the environment around my community be impacted if the proposed Project is allowed to proceed?
2. How might the environment in my region be impacted if the proposed Project is allowed to proceed?
3. How might traditional activities, that either I or my community participate in, be impacted or changed if the proposed Project is allowed to proceed?
4. How might my community change or be impacted if the proposed Project is allowed to proceed?
5. What are the potential impacts I am concerned about?
  - Has the Proponent addressed these concerns? Has the Regional Inuit Association, Government of Nunavut, or federal government departments addressed my concerns?

- If my concerns have not been addressed, what suggestions do I have to address these concerns (including mitigation and monitoring plans)?
- 6. What could be done to minimize these potential negative impacts? Has the Proponent proposed this or other methods to reduce negative impacts which I consider adequate? Has the Regional Inuit Association, Government of Nunavut, or federal government departments considered these impacts and steps to minimize them?
- 7. Do I support the proposed Project? Why or why not?
- 8. What other questions do I have that have not been answered by:
  - The Proponent,
  - Regional Inuit Association or Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, or
  - Nunavut or federal Government representatives?

## **Appendix B: Project Description**



### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited – Meadowbank Division (Agnico Eagle) is proposing to develop Whale Tail Pit (Project), a satellite deposit located on the Amaruq Exploration property. Agnico Eagle is proposing to continue mine operations and milling at the Meadowbank Mine and gain approval to extend Meadowbank Mine to include development of resources from Whale Tail Pit. Concurrent with the reconsideration of the Project Certificate by the NIRB, Agnico Eagle is seeking an amendment to the Meadowbank Mine Type A Water Licence (No. 2AM-MEA1525) to include mining of Whale Tail Pit and the construction and operations of associated infrastructure from the Nunavut Water Board (NWB).

The Amaruq property is a 408 square kilometre (km<sup>2</sup>) site located on Inuit Owned Land approximately 150 kilometres (km) north of the hamlet of Baker Lake and approximately 50 km northwest of Meadowbank Mine in the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut. The deposit will be mined as an open pit (i.e., Whale Tail Pit), and ore will be hauled by truck to the approved infrastructure at Meadowbank Mine for milling.

The Project facilities will consist of a personnel camp (i.e., Main Camp), power plant, heli-pad, maintenance shop, tank farm, a waste rock storage facility (WRSF), an ore stockpiling facility, an attenuation pond, a water and sewage collection and treatment system, haul roads, access roads, water management infrastructure (e.g., collection ponds, channels, dikes, dams, and culverts), and the Whale Tail Pit. As a result of development, Agnico Eagle is also proposing to expand the width of the existing exploration access road to a haul road to accommodate increased traffic rates and haul trucks. No new infrastructure is required at the existing Meadowbank Mine to support the development of the Project.

An initial amount of approximately 8.3 million tonnes (Mt) of ore will be mined from one open pit (i.e., Whale Tail Pit) and processed over a three to four year mine life. Ore from Whale Tail Pit will be segregated by grade then crushed on-site after which it will be transported to Meadowbank Mine for milling. The mill rate will be approximately 9,000 to 12,000 tonnes per day.

Agnico Eagle proposes to process the Whale Tail ore and dispose of the tailings slurry at the existing Meadowbank Mine tailing storage facility (TSF), which is authorized under the current Project Certificate and Type A Water Licence. The mine operation will generate approximately 8.3 Mt of tailings, 46.7 Mt of mine waste rock, and 5.8 Mt of overburden soil, with very limited organic material. Tailings produced from processing of Whale Tail ore will be accommodated within the existing footprint of the TSF. More specifically, tailings will be stored within the current footprint of the south cell TSF and by building an internal structure in the north cell TSF. Neither the footprint of the facility nor the chemical nature of the tailings and process water are expected to significantly change from current operations. Whale Tail tailings will require the same long-term environmental control mechanisms as are currently approved for Meadowbank.

Approximately 2.5 Mt of waste rock will be used for construction activities such as roads, pads, and water management facilities (i.e., dike, berm, rip rap, etc.). The remaining waste rock and overburden material will be hauled to the Whale Tail WRSF, which is located northwest of the Whale Tail Pit. A second, temporary overburden storage pad for staging purposes is located west of the Whale Tail Lake. Waste rock and overburden will be co-disposed together in one of the two piles constituting the storage facility.

The Project will be supported using the existing transportation requirements, relying on marine transportation for most supplies, aircraft for supplies and transportation of employees, and the gold dore produced at the Meadowbank Mill. The Meadowbank All Weather Access Road (AWAR) will continue to provide supplies



transported from the existing Baker Lake marshalling facilities to the Meadowbank Mine. The current operational components include marshalling facilities in Baker Lake and the 110 km AWAR between Baker Lake and Meadowbank Mine. Agnico Eagle is proposing to upgrade the previously permitted Amaruq exploration access road to a haul road to support the development of Whale Tail Pit and to enable hauling needed between the Whale Tail Pit and the Meadowbank Mill. No changes are proposed for the Meadowbank AWAR to Baker Lake.

Construction of the Whale Tail Pit site will begin as soon as approval and permits are received (anticipated for early 2018) and ultimately have full production in 2019. The operational phase will span three to four years, from Year 1 (2019) to Year 4 (2022). Mining activities are currently expected to end in Year 3 (2021) and ore processing is expected to end during Year 4 (2022). Closure will occur from Year 4 (2022) to Year 11 (2029) after the completion of mining and will include removal of the non-essential site infrastructure and flooding of the mined-out open pit, as well as reestablishment of the natural Whale Tail Lake water level. By extending the life of mine at Meadowbank, Agnico Eagle will progressively close portions of Meadowbank Mine while operating.

The main objectives pertaining to water management are to limit and/or stop the flow of surface water runoff in the pit and to limit the impact on the local environment. In developing the water management plan, the following principles were followed:

- keep the different water types separated as much as possible;
- control and minimize contact water through diversion and containment;
- minimize fresh water consumption by recycling and reusing the contact and process water wherever feasible; and
- meet discharge criteria before any site contact water is released to the downstream environment.

Water management infrastructure includes contact water collection ponds, freshwater collection ponds, diversion channels, retention dikes, dams, culverts, water treatment plant for effluent, potable water treatment plant, sewage treatment plant, and a discharge diffuser. All contact water on-site will be directed to an attenuation pond. Contact water will be treated and then released to Mammoth Lake through a discharge diffuser.

To allow the mining of the Whale Tail Pit, Whale Tail Lake will be partly dewatered once the Whale Tail Dike is constructed. Following the completion of mining, the open pit will be filled with natural runoff and water pumped from Whale Tail Lake (South Basin) into Whale Tail Pit. The north and south basins of Whale Tail Lake are expected to reach the same elevation within eight years (2029). The Whale Tail Dike and the Mammoth Dike will be breached when the water quality monitoring results meet discharge criteria as per NWB Type A Licence conditions to allow water to return to the natural flow patterns downstream.

The Project was designed to minimize the areas of surface disturbance, stabilize disturbed land surfaces against erosion, and return the land to a post-mining land use to re-establish traditional pursuits and wildlife habitat. This will mainly be achieved by rapidly dewatering during the open water season, mining the pit as efficiently as possible, and then refilling as early as possible during closure. Post-closure environmental monitoring will continue until it has been verified that reclamation has successfully met closure and reclamation objectives.

Baseline programs have been completed for the Project and have included data collection for the physical environment (e.g., terrain and soils, permafrost, geochemistry, noise, and surface water quantity and quality), biological environment (e.g., vegetation, terrestrial wildlife and birds, and fish and other aquatic organisms), and





## VOLUME 1 - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

the cultural environment (e.g., IQ, archaeology, and socio-economics) in support of the environmental assessment and Type A Water Licence Amendment Application. Agnico Eagle has completed an environmental assessment to identify and assess potential environmental and social effects resulting from the Project. It is anticipated that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Amendment and Type A Water Licence Amendment will be submitted to the NWB and NIRB in June 2016, at the time of the NPC conformity determination decision. The results of the environmental assessment found that with mitigation, the Whale tail Pit, Whale Tail haul road, and the extension of the Meadowbank Mine, will not cause long-term significant negative effects as a result of proposed construction, operations, and closure.

Agnico Eagle has developed monitoring and management programs required to mitigate, monitor, and report on its environmental performance against the regulatory requirements contained within its Meadowbank operating authorizations, permits, licenses, and leases consistent with the legal requirements of applicable Acts and Regulations in Nunavut. Existing Meadowbank Mine management and monitoring plans have been updated or addendums have been added to reflect the Project and will be submitted as part of the FEIS and Water Licence Amendments in June 2016. The performance of the management plans will be monitored periodically and the results communicated. Independent subject matter experts or consultants may be engaged to review performance where necessary. The accuracy of the environmental impact predictions and the effectiveness of the mitigation measures will be verified through monitoring and annual reporting. If unusual or unforeseen adverse environmental impacts are noticed, corrective action will be put in place. Through the adaptive management process, the existing mitigation measures will be adjusted or new mitigation measures implemented if necessary. External reporting will be completed, as required.

A key goal of Agnico Eagle's public consultation and engagement program has been to ensure the Company obtains a "social licence to operate", by securing the support of a majority of residents from potentially impacted local communities. Since operations of Meadowbank Mine began, Agnico Eagle has continued public consultation by annually meeting with the community and local stakeholders within the Kivalliq Region, regulatory agencies and local employees routinely which has allowed a better general understanding of the rights, interests, values, aspirations, and concerns of the potentially affected stakeholders, with particular reference to the local community of interest, Baker Lake. Through this continued consultation Agnico Eagle has developed an operational culture that recognizes and respects these relevant interests in the planning and executing processes. Agnico Eagle has consulted with local stakeholders and regulators regarding the current Amaruq exploration activities and the proposed Whale Tail Pit, as an extension to the Meadowbank Mine.

Consultation and regulatory engagement discussions were also considered as part of the alternatives assessment. The alternatives that shaped the overall Project includes the Project Go/No-Go decision, deposit, mining method, and production rate, processed ore containment and tailing storage, overburden and waste rock disposal, water management, transportation access and quarry development, and infrastructure support.

Agnico Eagle is a senior mining company with a proven reputation for sustainability and economic success in Nunavut. Its' success is based on grass roots exploration and recognizing the potential in the areas it explores. Agnico Eagle is committed to creating value for their shareholders by operating in a safe, socially, and environmentally responsible manner while contributing to the prosperity of their employees, their families, and the communities in which they operate. These commitments based on Agnico Eagle's Sustainable Development Policy, are published in the Annual Sustainable Development Report, and are reported annually to the Kivalliq Inuit Association, NWB, and NIRB.



## Appendix C: Community Representative Information Form

**Event:** NIRB and NWB Pre-Hearing Conference for the proposed Whale Tail Pit Project proposal and associated Water Licence Application

**Dates:** May 1-2, 2017

**Community:** Baker Lake, NU

**Location:** Baker Lake Community Hall

### **Representative information:**

Legal Name (please print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Community represented: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominating Agency: ☐ KIA ☐ HTO ☐ Hamlet  
☐ Elder's Group ☐ Women's Group ☐ Youth Group

**If representative less than 19 years of age, please have the Parent or Guardian complete the following section:**

Age of representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian providing permission to travel: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Emergency contact person:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_