



Indigenous and  
Northern Affairs Canada

Affaires autochtones  
et du Nord Canada

# **Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd's Whale Tail Pit Project**

Nunavut Impact Review Board/Nunavut Water  
Board

Pre-Hearing Conference  
Baker Lake  
May 1-2, 2017



Canada

INAC·AANC



## INAC's Role in the NIRB and NWB Assessment of the Proposed Whale Tail Pit Project

- **Responsible Minister:** Has decision-making role under the Nunavut Agreement, NuPPAA, and NWSRTA
- **Intervenor:** Provide expert advice
- **Regulator:** Administration of federal public land and water licence inspections/enforcement





## Summary of INAC's participation in the review of the Proposed Whale Tail Pit Project

- **Scoping**
  - Attended NIRB community scoping meetings (Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, Arviat)
  - Comments on project scope to the NIRB
- **Information Requests (IRs)**
  - Nine (9) IRs submitted to the NIRB
  - Application completeness comments submitted to the NWB
- **Technical Review Comments (TRCs)**
  - Sixteen (16) TRCs submitted to the NIRB
  - Nine (9) TRCs submitted to the NWB
- **Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference**



## Summary of INAC's review of the Whale Tail Pit Project Proposal

**In its review of this project, the department provided expertise on the following:**

- Potential for contamination and/or deterioration of Crown land (including permafrost)
- Surface water quality and quantity
- Groundwater
- Closure costs
- Community engagement and consultation
- Economic development
- Socio-economic plans
- Impact assessment methodology



## Summary of INAC's Technical Review Comment Submissions

Separate submissions to the NIRB and NWB (March 28, 2017)

- Sixteen (16) technical comments submitted to the NIRB
- Nine (9) technical comments submitted to the NWB



## Socio-Economic Concerns

- Information gaps on components to assess and on methodology used
- Unclear community consultation results
- Incomplete closure and monitoring plans
- Lack of cumulative effects assessment





## Water Quality Concerns

- Drainage from waste rock and its impact on nearby waterbodies
- Long-term water quality in the flooded pit
- Impact of explosive usage on water quality
- Proactive measures to reduce uncertainty



## Tailings Storage Concerns

- Tailings will be stored at Meadowbank
- Additional information required regarding the facility capacity







## Closure Planning Concerns

- Uncertainties regarding the waste rock closure plan
- Reclamation research on re-vegetation
- Adaptive management planning
- Financial security estimate





## Conclusions

- In general, the information, analysis and presentation of the assessment is good
- However, the detail provided in some areas is limited and therefore significant uncertainties remain
- In many respects, potential environmental impacts associated with the operational phase are well understood
- In contrast, uncertainties regarding post-closure could result in unintended and difficult to mitigate impacts
- The socio-economic assessment as presented in the EIS also presents some concerns through all phases of the project

Thank you  
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Maatna  
Merci

