



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY TECHNICAL REPORT WHALE TAIL**

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) and the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA) have completed a technical review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited's (AEM) Whale Tail Pit Project, released in May, 2016.

The purpose of the Whale Tail Pit EIS technical review was to ensure that the potential impacts and benefits were comprehensively assessed through scientific and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit impact assessment best practices. In particular, how these best practices were incorporated into impact determination, mitigation, project design, and monitoring programs.

The final offsetting plan must strike a balance between the DFO "like for like" offsetting approach and the wishes of local residents. The final offsetting plan must also be flexible enough to accommodate additional offsetting if unexpected water quality changes endanger the aquatic biota.

The freshwater environment issues that still remain are related to:

- the study of treatment options to reduce the concentration of arsenic being discharged into the environment during operation, and consequently minimizing the concentrations of arsenic in post closure.
- Temporal monitoring of fish mercury concentrations relative to flooding is recommended as to ensure that increased mercury concentration in fish are low.
- The close monitoring of phosphorus levels in water will be required so additional groundwater monitoring wells be installed during operations and at closure at the following locations:
  - 1) close to whale tail pit,
  - 2) downstream of the Mammoth Lake,
  - 3) in proximity to the WRSF, and
  - 4) close to Nemo lake.

The atmospheric environment issues that still remain are related to:

- Model predictions of 1-hour NO<sub>2</sub> from explosives detonation are currently unknown as are the impacts of the revised model predictions on human health.
- Dust deposition predictions from the proposed Whale Tail haul road are uncertain and may be underestimated.

- The effectiveness of the proposed mitigation strategy (i.e., watering) for unpaved roads is unclear.

The terrestrial environment issues that still remain are related to:

- Completion of adequate analysis of the caribou collar data to determine the extent of deflection or changes in movement and crossing rates by caribou from the existing All Weather Access Road (AWAR) between Baker Lake and Meadowbank.
- Assessment of the impact the frequent haul truck traffic on the Whale Tail haul road will have on caribou movements.
- Further assessment of the effects of indirect habitat loss, which may be underestimated.
- Further assessment of the potential impacts on caribou forage (lichen) which are not adequately addressed.
- Calculation of the caribou zone of influence in order to better assess the potential impacts of the Whale Tail Project.
- The TEMP needs to be improved so that it adequately addresses monitoring at intermediate to near scales to the Project.
- Creation of a technical terrestrial advisory group to administer the TEMP by providing for ongoing cooperation, communication, reporting, review and consideration of environmental effects monitoring, mitigation measures and fulfillment of the Project Certificate Conditions relating to the interaction between the Whale Tail Project and the terrestrial environment.