



May 6, 2024

NWB File No. 2AM-WTP1830

Karen Kharatyan
Nunavut Water Board
PO Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Re: Water Licence 2AM-WTP1830 – 2024 Modification

Dear Mr. Kharatyan,

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle) is writing to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) to provide sixty (60) days' notice of a proposed Modification to the Whale Tail Mine under Part G of Water Licence (2AM-WTP1830).

1. Background

On April 4, 2024 Agnico Eagle submitted an application to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) to complete a screening of the proposed project changes, whereby Agnico Eagle is requesting a pushback of IVR Pit, continuation of the Whale Tail underground, and expansion of the approved Whale Tail Ore Stockpile No. 3 (collectively referred to as the 2024 Modification). The NPC concluded on April 19, 2024 that the proposed changes were exempt from screening as the 2024 Modification does not change the general scope of the original or previously amended activities (Attachment A). Subsequently, Agnico Eagle is submitting this notification of Modification per Water Licence 2AM-WTP1830, Part G, Item 3a-g for the NWB review and approval, as described in the sections below.

2. Conditions Applying to Modifications

Part G, Item 3a: Description of Facilities and/or Works to be Constructed

As set out in the enclosed materials, the proposed 2024 Modification activities operating to mid-2028 under the Licence approval to 2030, include the following:

- pushback of the IVR Pit
- continuation of the Whale Tail underground
- expansion of the approved Whale Tail Ore Stockpile No.3

The exploitation of open pit deposits usually takes place through a series of mining phases, commonly known as pushbacks. In open pit metalliferous mining, each pushback considers the extraction of one or more benches simultaneously in a process where the core operational tasks include: drilling, blasting, loading, and hauling. For clarity, a pushback represents an area that can be mined in a single continuous operation as defined within the Ultimate Pit. It is used for different reasons, such as to access additional ore. A pushback is not an additional deposit, or standalone pit, but rather a continuation of the mining ore zone. The IVR Pit pushback should be considered as an adjustment of the pit footprint based on a better understanding of the geological and/or geotechnical properties of the pit.

The Whale Tail underground will remain within the extent assessed in the 2018 FEIS Addendum (i.e., to a maximum depth of -505 masl). Water will be managed within the approved water management infrastructures (e.g., groundwater storage ponds, attenuation ponds, water treatment, etc.).

The mine will produce (including the 2024 Modification) in total 31.8 million tonnes (Mt) of ore, 205.9 Mt of waste rock, and 5.4 Mt of overburden waste. Disposal of waste material will continue in the approved Whale Tail Waste Rock Storage Facility (WRSF; Agnico Eagle 2019) and is designed to accommodate waste rock and overburden generated from the Whale Tail and IVR Pits. No change is anticipated to the Whale Tail WRSF as a result of the 2024 Modification.

Consistent with Whale Tail Mine operations and the approved Operational ARD-ML Sampling and Testing Plan, a classification system will be used to identify and safely store PAG and ML rock. PAG mine rock will be stored in the designated storage areas designed for long-term stability. NPAG and NML rock will be either stockpiled or used in construction, including for WRSF cover material. Run-off will be appropriately handled.

To accommodate ore storage, Whale Tail Ore Stockpile 3 will be extended. The approved Ore Stockpile Contact Water Collection system will capture the runoff water from the stockpile and ultimately redirect it towards the existing IVR Attenuation Pond where it will continue to be managed within the approved and existing water management infrastructure.

All existing water management infrastructure will be able to manage the activities and no new water management infrastructure is anticipated.

Part G, Item 3b: Proposed Location of Structure(s)

Activities for the 2024 Modification are located within the approved Whale Tail Mine footprint (Project Certificate No.008, Amendment 001), as presented in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Approved Whale Tail Mine and 2024 Modification



Part G, Item 3c: Potential Impacts to the Receiving Environment

Agnico Eagle completed an update to the water balance and site and downstream water quality model to account for the 2024 Modification. The water quality model results show that all parameters are predicted to remain below their respective water quality guidelines in receiving lakes during Operations. Once effluent discharge ceases in active closure, active treatment of water in IVR Pit will manage arsenic and phosphorus to allow for passive flooding of the pits. Once flooded, all parameters are expected to be below the respective guidelines post-closure.

The updated results of the water quality predictions associated with the 2024 Modification are provided in the Water Management Plan (Attachment B).

Part G, Item 3d: Monitoring Required

Agnico Eagle does not anticipate any additional monitoring from that already included within Water Licence 2AM-WTP1830, particularly as there are no new structures associated with the 2024 Modification. Agnico Eagle will adhere to the sampling locations, parameters measured, and frequencies of sampling as outlined in Schedule D, Table 2 – Monitoring Program of the Water Licence, as well as the Whale Tail Water Quality and Flow Monitoring Plan.

In addition, the Whale Tail Water Management Plan and Whale Tail Waste Rock Management Plan have been updated to account for the 2024 Modification and are provided in Attachment B and Attachment C, respectively.

Part G, Item 3e: Schedule for Construction

The 2024 Modification activities would initiate following reception of the NWB. Further details are outlined in Section 3 the Whale Tail Waste Rock Management Plan (Attachment C).

Part G, Item 3f: Drawings of Engineering Structures

Per the description of Modification in Item 3a, there are no new structures associated with the 2024 Modification activities that required drawings of engineered structures stamped by an Engineer.

There are no changes to the approved WRSFs. The Whale Tail WRSF Expansion and IVR WRSF Design Report and Drawings were submitted in December 2019 (Agnico Eagle 2019) and were accepted by the NWB, per Part D, Item 4 of Water Licence 2AM-WTP1830.

Part G, Item 3g: Sediment and Erosion Control Measures

No new sediment or erosion control measures are required. The measures outlined in Section 3.7.1 of the Whale Tail Water Management Plan (Attachment B) are sufficient for the 2024 Modification activities.

3. Closure

Agnico Eagle thanks the NWB for their timely review and consideration of the proposed 2024 Modification under Water Licence 2AM-WTP1830. Agnico Eagle is committed to responsibly manage waste and water resources to minimize or eliminate potential effects to the environment in accordance with the Water Licence, Project Certificate No. 008, and objectives as outlined in Management Plans for the Whale Tail Mine.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Manon Turmel
Permitting and Regulatory Affairs Superintendent
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

Attachments: Attachment A NPC Letter - Exempt from Screening
Attachment B Water Management Plan (includes the Water Balance and Water Quality Forecast)
Attachment C Waste Rock Management Plan

References:

Agnico Eagle (Agnico Eagle Mines Limited). 2019. Whale Tail WRSF Expansion and IVR WRSF Design Report and Drawings. 60-Day Notice to Nunavut Water Board In Accordance with Water License 2AM-WTP-1826. December 2019.

Attachment A NPC Letter - Exempt from Screening



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Nunavunmi Parnaiyiit
Nunavut Planning Commission
Commission d'Aménagement du Nunavut

April 19, 2024
NPC FILE No. 150376

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Dear Richard Dwyer, Luis Manzo, Carson Gillis, Tracey McCaie, Cassel Kapolak, and Manon Turmel:

RE: NPC File No. 150376 [Whale Tail 2024 Modification]

- *Related NPC FILE No. 148297, 148953, and 149515, and 150084*
- *Related NIRB FILE No. 03MN107, 11EN010, 16MN056, Related NWB FILE No.: 2AM-WTP1830.*
- *Location: Kivalliq Region; [approximately 150 km north of the Hamlet Baker Lake, near Amaruk]*

The following works and activities have been proposed in the above-noted project proposal:

1. Mineral Exploration: Agnico Eagle is proposing an amendment to their Project Certificate No. 008 and Water License 2AM-WTP 1830 to support additional changes to the Whale Tail Pit mine site development up to year 2028. Proposed activities include:
 - the expansion of the Whale Tail Ore Stockpile No.3,
 - the continuation of the Whale Tail underground; and
 - the Pushback of the IVR Pit (which involves drilling, blasting, loading, and hauling)

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A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the NPC can be accessed online using the link below.

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) has completed its review of the above noted project proposal. The NPC previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current proposal and conformity determinations were issued on July 12, 2002, July 21, 2003, March 10, 2011, October 15, 2015, July 16, 2015, October 16, 2018, April 20, 2021, and on May 26, 2023, which still apply. In addition, associated activities were previously reviewed by the Nunavut Impact Review Board, including the development of an open pit mine (Whale Tail and IVR) and a haul road establishment (NIRB FILE NO.: 16MN056, Project Certificate No. 008). It conforms to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, G, and H of the KRLUP.

The above-noted project proposal is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that the proposed expansions of whale tale ore stockpile No 3 and the continuation of ongoing mining activities until year 2028 do not change the general scope of the original or previously amended project activities, and the exceptions noted in Section 12.4.3 (a) and (b) of the Nunavut Agreement do not apply. However, the proponent is encouraged to discuss potential implications for the project's monitoring program with the NIRB.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal to the regulatory authorities identified by the proponent. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address:


<https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=150376>

The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NUPPAA) to implement any of the applicable requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

This conformity determination applies only to the above noted project proposal as submitted. Proponents may not carry out projects and regulatory authorities may not issue licenses, permits and other authorizations in respect of projects if a review by the NPC is required. Regulatory authorities may consult with the NPC to obtain recommendations on their duties to implement the existing land use plans prior to issuing licenses, permits and other authorizations under subsection 69(6) of the NUPPAA.

My office would be pleased to discuss how best to implement the applicable requirements and to review any draft authorizations that regulatory authorities wish to provide for that purpose. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 979-3444.

Sincerely,



Goump Djalogue, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Planning and Implementation
Nunavut Planning Commission

Attachment B Water Management Plan

(due to file size, document is provided in standalone pdf file)

Attachment C Waste Rock Management Plan

(due to file size, document is provided in standalone pdf file)