



ᓄᓇᓂᓪ ᐃᓕᓕᓂᓪᓐ ᑲᓂᓕᓂᓪᓐ
NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

**Files Nos: Amended Licences 2AM-WTP1830 and
2AM-MEA1530**

March 27, 2020

By Courier, Email and Regular Mail

Honourable Daniel Vandal, PC, MP
Minister of Northern Affairs
The Valour Building, Suite 550
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Email: aadnc.ministrean-ministerna.aandc@canada.ca

Subject: Amended Licences 2AM-WTP1830 (Whale Tail Pit Project) and 2AM-MEA1530 (Meadowbank Gold Mine Project); Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

Dear Honourable Minister Vandal:

Please find enclosed Amended Licences 2AM-WTP1830 and 2AM-MEA1530 that the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) recommends be issued to Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle) for a Mining Undertaking as defined under Schedule 1, Item 2 of the *Nunavut Waters Regulations*, SOR/2013-69.

Water Licence No. 2AM-WTP1830 (amended Whale Tail Licence) authorizes Agnico Eagle to use Water and deposit Waste in support of mine construction, operation, closure and reclamation activities at the Whale Tail Pit gold mine site, located approximately 150 kilometres (km) north of the Hamlet of Baker Lake and approximately 50 km northwest of the Meadowbank Gold Mine site, within the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut. As the ore processing infrastructure at the Meadowbank Gold Mine site is used to process the additional ore from the Whale Tail Pit, the NWB has also recommended consequential amendments to the existing Meadowbank Gold Mine Water Licence No. 2AM-MEA1530 with the extension to the term to reflect the four-year extension to the amended Whale Tail Licence.

Prior to the NWB's completion of decision-making for the Amendment Applications, the pre-licensing requirements of the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) and the Nunavut Impact

Review Board (NIRB) were completed as follows. On October 16, 2018, the NPC confirmed the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Proposal (Expansion Proposal) was in conformity with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP). The NPC then referred the Expansion Proposal to the NIRB for screening of the potential ecosystemic and socio-economic effects of the Expansion Proposal because the Expansion Proposal included components or activities that were not part of the previously-approved Whale Tail Pit Project Proposal. In October 2019, following the NIRB's assessment of the Expansion Proposal and reconsideration of the terms and conditions of NIRB Project Certificate No. 008 s for the Whale Tail Pit Project, the NIRB recommended that the Expansion Proposal be allowed to proceed to the licensing stage. Subsequently, on January 20, 2020, the Minister of Northern Affairs (on behalf of all relevant Ministers) accepted the NIRB's recommendation that the Expansion Proposal should be allowed to proceed and varied two of the NIRB's recommended terms and conditions (Term and Condition #30 and Term and Condition #66).

On February 14, 2020, the NWB closed the Public Hearing Record for the file and remitted the file to the NWB's duly appointed decision-making Panel for the file, the Whale Tail Pit Panel (P17). On March 12, 2020, the Whale Tail Pit Panel met and decided, by way of Motions #2019-26-P17-05 and #2019-26-P17-06 to grant the attached amended Water Licences Nos: 2AM-WTP1830 and 2AM-MEA1530 (Amended Licences) in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in the Amended Licences and as described in the Decision.

Please note that, as required under s. 63 of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 10 (*NWNSRTA*), the NWB has awaited the receipt of formal confirmation from the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) and Agnico Eagle that there are no outstanding issues of water user compensation before releasing the Decision and Amended Licences. This confirmation was received by the NWB on February 13, 2020 during the NWB Public Hearing.

In accordance with s. 56 of the *NWNSRTA*, the Amended Licences require your approval and, as such, the NWB provides the attached Reasons for Decision including the Record of Proceedings and the Amended Licences for your review and consideration.

Should you have any questions and/or require clarification on the above, or wish to discuss further, please contact the undersigned in writing.

Sincerely,

Lootie Toomasie
Nunavut Water Board, Chair

Cc: Meadowbank Distribution List

Enclosures: Amended Water Licences Nos: 2AM-WTP1830 and 2AM-MEA1530

Water Licences Nos: 2AM-WTP1830 and 2AM-MEA1530 Reasons for Decision
Including Record of Proceedings