



NIRB File No.: 11EN010

NWB File No.: 2BE-MEA0813

KIA File Nos.: KVL312C03, KVCL305H305, KVRW11F01

AANDC File No.: N2011C0010

May 29, 2013

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
c/o Jeff Mercer, Manager of Land Administration
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: jeff.mercer@aandc.gc.ca, landsmining@aandc.gc.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Pipe Dream Winter Road and Mining Exploration" project, Kivalliq Region

Dear Jeff Mercer:

On May 23, 2013 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for an extension to the Land Use Permit (No. N2011C0010) for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM) "Pipe Dream Winter Road and Mining Exploration" project proposal.

The NIRB initially received a positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) for the "Pipe Dream Winter Road and Mining Exploration" project proposal (NIRB File No.: 11EN010) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) on March 10, 2011 and a request for screening from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC, now Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada or AANDC) on March 15, 2011. The proposal was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and on April 21, 2011 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of INAC which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Additional authorization and extension requests associated with the "Pipe Dream Winter Road and Mining Exploration" project have also been reviewed by the NIRB following screening of the original project proposal (File No. 11EN010). In each instance, the NIRB confirmed that the application was exempt from the requirement for further screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and that the activities therein remained subject to the terms and conditions

recommended in the original April 21, 2011 Screening Decision Report. A summary of the additional applications associated with NIRB File No. 11EN010 are presented below in Table 1.

Table 1: Additional applications associated with NIRB File No. 11EN010

Authorization	Application			NIRB Decision	
	Date Received by NIRB	Type	Reason for Application	Date Issued	Type
NWB Water Licence (2BE-MEA0813)	August 10, 2011	Amendment	To permit drilling activities to occur within the 30 metre high water mark	August 15, 2011	NLCA 12-1 (5) Exemption
AANDC Land Use Permit	March 22, 2012	Amendment	To conduct exploration activities on additional Crown land	April 30, 2012	NLCA 12.4.3 Exemption (reissued April 21, 2011 SDR)
KIA Land Use Licence	May 29, 2012	New licence	To conduct exploration activities on Inuit Owned lands	August 28, 2012	NLCA 12.4.3 Exemption (reissued April 21, 2011 SDR)
NWB Water Licence (2BE-MEA0813)	October 11, 2012	Renewal	To continue water use and waste disposal associated with the “Meadowbank Exploration Camp” and Pipe Dream Winter Road and Mining Exploration”	October 18, 2012	NLCA 12.4.3 Exemption (reissued April 21, 2011 SDR)

Notes: AANDC = Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada; NIRB= Nunavut Impact Review Board; SDR= Screening Decision Report

The current AANDC application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (File No. 11EN010) and related file information are available from the NIRB’s online public registry at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2011/11EN010-AEM-Pipedream%20%26%20IVR%20Exploration/>

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 11EN010), AEM’s “Pipe Dream Winter Road and Mining Exploration” project was located within the Kivalliq region, approximately 90 kilometers

(km) north of the Hamlet of Baker Lake (Meadowbank Exploration Project area) and approximately 43 km northeast of the Hamlet of Baker Lake (Greyhills Exploration Project area). The Proponent indicated that it intended to conduct exploration activities and construct and operate a winter road network near the Meadowbank project area. These proposed activities were located near the Meadowbank Exploration Camp which was included within the scope of the NIRB's assessment and Review of the Meadowbank Gold project (File No. 03MN107) and which had been permitted to proceed pursuant to the NIRB's Project Certificate No. 004 issued December 30, 2006.

Following an evaluation of the project scope, the NIRB determined that the proposed "Pipe Dream Winter Road and Mining Exploration" project activities were not included within the scope of the Board's previous Review of the Meadowbank Gold Project and as such, these activities were treated as a new project subject to screening in accordance with Article 12 of the NLCA. The project activities were proposed to take place from April through August 2011.

The activities/components associated with this proposal included:

- Construction and operation of winter road network, approximately 26.5 km in length;
 - Originating at the Meadowbank Exploration Camp at km 100 of the Meadowbank All Weather Private Access Road
 - Maximize passage over frozen lakes
 - Preparation include removal of snow from lake ice without flooding
- Approximately 13,000 metres (total) on land and on ice diamond (exploration) drilling on Inuit Owned Land and Crown land at the Meadowbank and Greyhills Exploration Projects;
 - Approximately 78 drilling sites located within 19 different areas (areas to be connected via proposed winter road)
- Geological mapping, prospecting, some trenching, geophysical surveying;
- Access via winter road, supported by helicopter;
- Project personnel based out of the Meadowbank Exploration Camp (NIRB File No. 03MN107); and,
- Transportation of fuel and chemical materials on an as-needed basis to support drilling activities.

The activities and components associated with the previous August 20, 2011 Type B Water Licence amendment application included:

- Conducting drilling activities within the 30 metre high water mark of proximal water bodies; and
- Disposal of all drill waste a minimum of 30 metres from the high water mark of proximal water bodies.

The activities and components associated with the previous March 22, 2012 Land Use Permit amendment included a request to conduct exploration activities on additional Crown land. The activities were to be conducted from April 2012 to August 2014 and would have included approximately 30 drill sites per year for a total of 60 sites. Drilling was to be conducted on land and on ice, with sites located approximately 15 kilometres northwest and up to 20 kilometres northeast of the previously permitted exploration sites (NIRB File No. 11EN010).

The Proponent's May 29, 2012 application for a KIA Land Use Licence proposed additional exploration activities associated with its "IVR property" to take place on Inuit Owned Lands, approximately 50 kilometres northwest of the Meadowbank Mine site. The activities and components included:

- Prospecting, geophysical work, and soil sampling;
- Trenching to enhance surface rock exposure for geological mapping and channel sampling (4 to 8 trenches);
- On-land and on-ice drilling of approximately 30 or more holes per year (dependent upon results obtained);
- Short term storage of fuel and chemicals at drill sites, including diesel, gasoline and propane;
- Transportation of personnel, fuel and equipment to exploration sites via helicopter;
- Use of water for drilling activities as permitted under the amended Type B Water Licence; and,
- Backhaul of any waste produced to the Meadowbank mine site for disposal (NIRB File No. 03MN107); and
- Use of Meadowbank Exploration Camp (NIRB File No. 03MN107).

The activities and components associated with the previous October 11, 2012 NWB application included the renewal of NWB Type B Water Licence 2BE-MEA0813.

CURRENT APPLICATION:

Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. is proposing to extend its AANDC Land Use Permit (No. N2011C0010) for an additional two (2) years to continue land use operations associated with the "Pipe Dream Winter Road and Mining Exploration" project proposal.

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

"Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:

- (a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or*
- (b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project."*

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed extension does not change the general scope of the original project activities, and the exceptions noted in NLCA 12.4.3(a) and (b) do not apply. Therefore, this application is exempt from the requirement for screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original April 21, 2011 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Tannis Bolt, Assistant Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4603 or tbolt@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: David Frenette, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
Stéphane Robert, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 11EN010 (April 21, 2011)