



NIRB File Nos.: 03MN107, 11EN010

AANDC File Nos.: N2013F0030 & N2011C0010

NWB File No.: 2BE-MEA0813

KIA File Nos.: KVL312C03, KVCL305H305 & KVRW11F01

April 11, 2014

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
c/o Tracey McCaie, Acting Manager of Land Administration
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
PO Box 100
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: Tracey.McCaie@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 "IVR Exploration" project, Kivalliq Region

Dear Tracey McCaie:

On December 4, 2013, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM) application for an amendment to its "IVR Exploration" project. On December 9, 2013 the NIRB issued correspondence to AEM advising that a conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission and a referral from an authorizing agency would be required for the Board to screen the project proposal in accordance with Article 12, Part 4 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On March 27, 2014 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) and a request for screening from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for an amendment to Land Use Permit No. N2013F0030 associated with the IVR Exploration project.

Please be advised that the NIRB initially received a positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) for the originally named "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 AANDC) on March 15, 2011. The proposal was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the 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 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
Water Licence (2BE-MEA0813)	August 10, 2011	Amendment	Permit drilling activities to occur within the 30 metre high water mark	August 15, 2011	Exempt per Schedule 12-1(5) and reissued April 21, 2011 SDR
AANDC Land Use Permit (N2011C0010)	March 22, 2012	Amendment	To conduct exploration activities on additional Crown land	April 30, 2012	Reissued April 21, 2011 SDR
KIA Land Use Licence (KVL312C03)	May 29, 2012	New licence	To conduct exploration activities on Inuit Owned lands	August 28, 2012	Reissued April 21, 2011 SDR
Water Licence (2BE-MEA0813)	October 11, 2012	Renewal	To continue using water and disposal of wastes associated with Meadowbank Exploration Camp and Pipe Dream Winter Road and Mining Exploration	October 18, 2012	Reissued April 21, 2011 SDR
Water Licence (2BE-MEA0813)	January 21, 2013	Amendment	Include two exploration areas to its water licence; IVR Exploration and south Meadowbank area	February 26, 2013	Exempt per Schedule 12-1(5) and reissued April 21, 2011 SDR

Notes: AANDC = Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada; KIA = Kivalliq Inuit Association; 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 link:

<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 original "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 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 ordinary 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).

Following an initial review of the application materials submitted on May 29, 2012, the NIRB determined that this project proposal was related to the previously screened "Pipe Dream Winter Road and Mining Exploration" project.

The activities and components associated with the previous January 21, 2013 Type B Water licence amendment included a request to add two exploration areas to the licence; "IVR Exploration" and "south Meadowbank area".

CURRENT APPLICATION:

AEM is proposing to amend its Land Use Permit (No. N2013F0030) with AANDC to include the following additional components/activities which are proposed to take place from February 2014 to September 2016:

- Development and operation of a winter access road, approximately 53 kilometres in length from the Meadowbank mine site to the IVR Exploration site;
 - Winter road mostly located on lakes with 9 km located on land;
 - No use of water for preparation of winter road;
- Use of winter access road to transport material, equipment and fuel for exploration activities;
- Archaeological investigation to be conducted in the summer of 2014.

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.”

On March 27, 2014 the NIRB distributed the current amendment request to a regional distribution list, requesting submission of any comments or concerns related to the application by April 3, 2014.

The following is a summary of comments received from the Baker Lake Hunters' and Trappers' Organization regarding the proposed amendment:

- Indicated concerns regarding water quality, terrain, traditional uses of land, Inuit harvesting activities, wildlife, fish and heritage resources in the area.
- Noted potential impacts to water quality, fish and fish habitat from drilling and winter road activities.
- Noted potential impacts to lakes, snow and land from development and use of winter trail, and impacts to migrating wildlife.
- Recommended that company provide evidence of implementation of mitigation measures.

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application as well as the comments received from interested parties, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed amendment 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 concerns, please contact Heather Rasmussen, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4606 or hrrasmussen@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.
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association

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