



NIRB File No.: 11EN010

October 8, 2015

Re: Community Information Session regarding the Amaruq Exploration Access Road Project proposed by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.

On August 5, 2015 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received correspondence from the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization which requested that the NIRB extend the screening commenting deadline and hold public meetings to inform the community of the proposal to explain in detail the proposed infrastructure.

AEM has previously been approved to undertake exploration activities related to the “Pipe Dream Winter Road and Mining Exploration” project proposal (NIRB File No.: 11EN010), and is currently proposing an “Amaruq Exploration Access Road” involving the additional components:

- Development and operation of an access road that is 62.5 kilometres (km) long and 6.5 metres wide and include:
 - Development of three (3) bridges;
 - Development of eight (8) large open bottomed arch culverts;
 - Development of twenty eight (28) corrugated round culverts to pass watercourse crossings;
 - Development of six (6) short spur roads to access 6 of the 7 eskers to be used for borrow pits;
 - Development of pullouts approximately every 400 ± 50 m to accommodate two road traffic;
 - Approximately 40 km of the road would be located on Crown Land;
 - Use of non-potentially acid generating (NPAG) waste rock from the Vault Pit as a quarry material to construct first 17 km of road;
 - Use of seven (7) eskers for borrow material to build remainder of road;
 - Transportation of materials, equipment and fuel for construction activities;
 - Storage and use of fuel in double-walled tanks along the road to distribute fuel to equipment;
 - Construction crew to be accommodated at existing and approved AEM facilities;
 - Additional archaeological studies to be conducted prior to construction of road;
- and

Winter road not expected to continue to be used once the single lane access road has been developed.

The following is a list of the comments and concerns that were raised verbally at the public information session for the presentation of the proposed Amaruq Exploration Access Road Project held in Baker Lake on September 10, 2015. Please note that even

though no presentation was provided to the Chesterfield Inlet community on the Amaruq Exploration Access Road Project, community members did provide comments on this proposal during a separate meeting on September 11, 2015. For further information on the setup of the NIRB Public Information Meetings, please refer to the Public Information Meeting Summary Report dated October 8, 2015 for NIRB File No. 03MN107.

General Comments

- A community member requested clarification on proposed project components, the current status and what arch culverts were.
- An HTO representative provided comments on why the HTO requested community consultation for the Amaruq proposal which were to discuss the potential environmental effects and to get a better understanding of what is being proposed.

Dust

- Commented on the production of dust along the Meadowbank AWAR and that this affects caribou cache and habitat. Noted that there is currently no dust suppressants used on the existing road and that a new road would make this effect worse. Further noted the potential for cumulative effects.

Water Quality

- Commented on the Amaruq site visit from September 8th and the amount of excavation work being conducted at Meadowbank (lots of bulldozers and installation of culverts) and noted that the heavy equipment is disturbing the environment. Asked how they will protect the lakes.

Wildlife, Fish and Traditional Land Use

- A Chesterfield Inlet community member asked what Baker Lake community members thought about the proposed Amaruq project and noted in response to the Monitoring Officer presentation that the community members of Chesterfield Inlet share the same concerns regarding fish and wildlife. “We don’t farm animals, we live off the land. Most of the Kivalliq are concerned with this. I’m sure some people want and support employment, but the other hand is we hunt from the land and it’s a lot cheaper than buying from the stores. We’ve seen a change since the mine opened. We hardly see marine mammals since the shipping started, which is why I’m opposed to the mine. Who am I? But that is my opinion, we hunt on the land. This has an impact on it.”
- Expressed concern that caribou is the main diet of many Inuit in Baker Lake and that they rely on the animals and the ability to hunt them.
- Comment provided on traditional land use for hunting and fishing in the area near Amaruq and Meadowbank and noted the need for additional studies, particularly related to fish and impacts from dust. Indicated potential change in caribou distribution. “I grew up in that area; I lived in the area of the Amaruq and Meadowbank area. My father taught me a lot, how to hunt in that area. I know all

- of the caribou sites and the fishing sites. When the caribou migrate they move through that area. There used to be a lot of caribou, especially September and October, used to be within 20 km and through Meadowbank as well. Fish used to be there, I would get fish when Meadowbank first open, but now, we need more studies, there is a lot of impact to fish.”
- Noted that Baker Lake community members fish in the area and that the mine has changed the fish. Further noted that caribou does not taste the same compared to before the mine started.
 - A community member noted the importance of archaeological sites to Baker Lake residents and that the caribou have to cross many rivers, streams and lakes when migrating. He wanted the NIRB/Board to be aware that there are many little streams that the caribou have to go through. He further noted that there are a lot of lakes that will be impacted that are important to Baker Lake.
 - A community member noted that the proposal could have potential effects on lakes, animals and migratory birds and requested clarification whether the proposed Amaruq road would impact wildlife as well as marine mammals, due to increased amount of equipment that needs to be shipped.
 - Recommended that AEM should stop mine traffic and even close down the mine when caribou are migrating in the area.
 - Reference made to food security and noted that there has been some concern related to caribou migration from the road.
 - A community member noted a decrease in marine wildlife between Chesterfield Inlet and Baker Lake from shipping and that this needs to be taken into consideration. Noted that as the only inland community, Baker Lake relies on fish and caribou.
 - Concerns raised on food security and the decrease in caribou due to project.

Archaeological Sites

- Questions raised on whether AEM had conducted studies to determine if there are archaeological grave sites in the area. Noted that archaeological sites should be avoided.
- An HTO representative referenced the September 8, 2015 Amaruq site visit with AEM and noted that AEM discussed its environmental and archaeological studies along the proposed AWAR. The HTO representative further noted that AEM brought them to an archaeological site by the proposed road. He noted that in AEM's road proposal proposed culverts will overlap with archaeological sites. Further noted that the HTO needs more information and action from AEM before it will lend its support to the proposal. The HTO representative noted that Elders have taught them that the grave sites should not be disturbed and noted that AEM had agreed that grave sites should not be disturbed and asked that they commit to this on the public record.
- An HTO representative made the following suggested recommendations on behalf of the HTO:
 - The HTO does not want the archaeological sites disturbed.
 - Would like AEM to re-assess its proposed route so as not to disturb the sites.

- AEM should note on the record the sites that will be avoided and which ones will be disturbed.
- 500m buffer zone requested surrounding the graves.
- If AEM will disturb any sites it should hire two elders of the HTO's choosing to look over the excavation process to ensure it would be done respectfully.
- It was noted that the HTO and *Community Lands and Resource Committee* (CLARC) members shared a lot of information about the archaeological and historical sites. These sites were documented in previous meetings including the September 8th site visit; however, it was noted that there was not enough time to share all information/knowledge from the area surrounding the Amaruq site during the traditional knowledge meetings. The HTO requested that before any approval given to AEM regarding the Amaruq proposal that additional traditional knowledge meetings and studies be conducted by AEM in order for them to get the full picture.
- Comments were made on the importance of archaeological sites to the Inuit and Elders and noted that Elders are not happy with any disturbance of graves or archaeological sites. Recommended that AEM divert the roads around the grave and archaeological sites and conduct more studies and research on the archaeological sites.

Socio-Economic Benefits

- Comment raised on the impact Meadowbank has on the community of Baker Lake in regards to the provision of jobs. He supports the mine because it provides employment. "Inuit are faced with poverty and there are not many options for the people. Every organization tries to get things going in Baker Lake and there was no bright future for the people before the Meadowbank mine."
- Discussed the land claims and land ownership in Nunavut and that [Inuit] worry about money and is why the NIRB process is so important.
- A community member noted support for the Meadowbank Project as long as it is done properly, they follow the rules and NIRB keeps the process going. Expressed concern that any delays in the Amaruq proposal or not having the project could affect Nunavummiut and specifically Baker Lake community members. "I understand that Meadowbank generates about 7% of gross domestic product of Canada and that is AEM doing their share even in the southern economy. We are contributing something to the rest of Canada. Canada is in a mini recession, we don't feel that because we aren't down south. I think it's really time that is going to become a very important part of the NIRB process. There are approximately 160 people employed at the mine and there is a delay with the Amaruq project people community members who would rely on the mine for employment would be affected."
- Another community member noted that he would like the NIRB to take a serious look at the proposal but not to cause too much delay as that would have repercussions on the community.
- Comments regarding lack of information and understanding regarding the process were brought up but also the importance of employment. "As an Inuk it is

difficult for us to do things because maybe we sometimes don't understand what is going on.' 'If Amaruq is going to go forward there is some things we have to try and the Nunavut government is not doing very much to provide employment in our community and the mining company has played a bigger role in Nunavut.'"

- Community member noted that he is happy that Meadowbank mine life could be extended with the Amaruq proposal.
- Would like to see increased employment opportunities for Baker Lake community members and requested clarification whether southern workers would be employed.
- Concerns were raised that the communities do not see benefits from the mining industry and that all the money from AEM goes to KIA.
- Noted the need for proper infrastructure in Baker Lake.
- Recommended that AEM help out the HTOs and that through the IIBA the Proponent should be meeting more with the HTO.
- Thinks the proposed Amaruq road would benefit Baker Lake community members but that it would also impact the area.
- Question asked on the potential benefits to Baker Lake Inuit from the project and to women of Baker Lake including increased opportunities for employment, skills and training.
- Concern raised on the applicability of the IIBA and noted it does not appear to be abided by KIA or AEM.
- Noted that Baker Lake is the main community directly impacted by Meadowbank, so Baker Lake should get the benefit of the projects. They're not sure this is being realized through the IIBA and noted that it's an issue the NIRB must hear. Maybe the IIBA isn't working well now. How do you portion out the benefit to Baker Lake as compared to the other communities in the Kivalliq?

Accidents and Spills

- Noted concerns on caribou, water and the land from spills and accidents along the road from the project and the importance to protect.

All-weather Access Road

- Concerns raised regarding the snowmachine crossings along the all-weather access road between Meadowbank and Baker Lake and noted that this has been raised with AEM numerous times. The crossings are poorly sloped and covered in boulders and as a result, hunters often damage their equipment trying to cross the road. Noted that the all-weather road that is proposed for Amaruq should have proper crossings in place for snowmachines. The following suggestions were made on behalf of the HTO:
 - AEM should hire an HTO hunter to supervise ramp construction and utilize their knowledge
 - If the road to Amaruq is approved, AEM should commit to maintaining ramps at skidoo crossings
- Noted that there has been a lot of vehicles associated with the Meadowbank road and that some areas have been disturbed. Further indicated there have been numerous problems in the area associated with the Meadowbank road and noted

that the area where the proposed route would overlap with the Meadowbank AWAR is important (*i.e., potential cumulative impacts*).

NIRB Consultation Process

- A community member noted that there were conflicting community events and discussed the suicide prevention walk which 200 people participated in during the same that the NIRB hosted the meeting.



Photo 1: Community member asking questions in Baker Lake on the Amaruq Access Road Proposal

Summary and conclusion

Community members from Baker Lake who attended the evening presentation related to the NIRB's screening of the Amaruq Exploration Access Road project proposal raised questions, concerns and comments on the proposal. The community members of Chesterfield Inlet also provided comments and concerns related to this proposal during the more informal open house meeting. The comments and concerns related to this proposal included increased dust and impacts to caribou and the environment from the proposed access road; requirements to protect the lakes around the area; importance of archaeological sites along the proposed access road, at the quarry sites and at the grave site(s) near Amaruq exploration site; food security and the importance of caribou to Inuit; and potential benefits from the proposal including increased employment, training and skills but specifically would like to see direct benefits to the Baker Lake community members. In addition, community members noted concerns regarding access across the AWAR for Meadowbank and the proposed access road to Amaruq and requested improved crossings for snowmachines.