



NIRB File No. 11RN017  
NWB File No.: 2BB-MWL0914  
KIA File No.: KVRW11F02 and KVCA11Q01

May 9, 2011

John Witteman  
Environment and Regulatory Consultant  
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Via email: [john.witteman@agnico-eagle.com](mailto:john.witteman@agnico-eagle.com)

**Re: Opportunity to address comments received regarding AEM's "All-Weather Road" project proposal**

Dear John Witteman:

On February 6, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM) "All-Weather Road" project proposal directly from AEM. On February 16, 2011 the NIRB received a referral for screening from the Kivalliq Inuit Association for this project proposal. On April 1, 2011 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission for this file and commenced screening the project proposal. The NIRB has assigned this project proposal file number 11RN017.

On April 7, 2011 the NIRB invited interested parties and municipalities most affected by AEM's proposed project to provide their comments and concerns regarding this project proposal directly to the NIRB by April 28, 2011, later extended to May 6, 2011.

On or before May 6, 2011 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- Kivalliq Inuit Association
- Government of Nunavut
- Rankin Inlet Community Economic Development Officer
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Environment Canada

All comment submissions received pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from NIRB's ftp site at

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/11RN017-AEM%20Meliadine%20All%20Weather%20Road/02-DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS/> .

The NIRB notes that, in addition to raising concerns about potential project impacts, several commenters have indicated that additional information and/or clarification is required to further the required impact assessment of this project proposal. Accordingly, the Board is requesting that AEM review and respond to the points raised in the public comment submissions received by the Board to date, including:

- More information/analysis required to support the statement that winter roads are not adequate for the 2012 and 2013 underground exploration and bulk-sampling;
- More information required regarding the all-weather road construction and operation plans;
- More information required regarding analysis of potential socio-economic impacts;
- Clarification required regarding proposed period of road operation and plans for decommissioning;
- Potential impacts of the all-weather road on the existing environment;
- Further discussion required regarding how AEM's experience with operating the Meadowbank Gold Mine road has informed the development of this project proposal;
- More information required regarding the planned monitoring and mitigation plans for the all-weather road; and
- Further discussion required regarding potential for cumulative effects including exploration activities and activities unrelated to the minerals sector.

It is in AEM's best interest to address the concerns raised through the public comment submissions received and cure any noted information deficiencies in a timely manner. The Board requests that a response be provided directly to the NIRB at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or via fax at (867) 983-2594 by **May 24, 2011**. Following receipt of AEM's response, the NIRB anticipates distributing the information for a second, shortened commenting period to allow parties to provide the Board with their final technical review comments.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact me directly at (867) 983-4619 or [kgillard@nirb.ca](mailto:kgillard@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Kelli Gillard B.Sc., P. Ag.  
Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc:      Distribution List  
         Eric Lamontange, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.  
         Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board  
         Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
         Jeff Mercer, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
         Christopher Aguirre, Transport Canada