



**NIRB File No.: 11RN017**

NWB File No.: 2BB-MWL0914

KIA File No.: KVRW11F02 and KVCA11Q01

May 17, 2011

Honourable John Duncan  
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Executive Offices  
10 Wellington St.  
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4

Via email: [Duncan.j@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Duncan.j@parl.gc.ca) and [minister@inac-ainc.gc.ca](mailto:minister@inac-ainc.gc.ca)

**Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Meliadine Gold Project All-Weather Road" Project Proposal**

Dear Honourable John Duncan:

Pursuant to Section 12.4.5 (b) of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement (NLCA), the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) hereby requests more time to screen the project proposal referenced above (NWB File No.: 2BB-MWL0914; KIA File No.: KVRW11F02 and KVCA11Q01).

On February 6, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM) "Meliadine Gold Project All-Weather Road" project proposal directly from AEM. On February 16, 2011 the NIRB received a referral for screening from the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) 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 assigned this project proposal file number 11RN017.

The NIRB is seeking additional time to screen this project proposal as a result of requests from the Government of Nunavut and the KIA to extend the public commenting period for the project. This extension to the public commenting period resulted in delays to the NIRB's anticipated screening timeline. Upon receiving comments from the public, the NIRB provided AEM with an opportunity to respond to issues that were identified during this period, which further increased the NIRB's processing time with regard to the proposed project.

The NIRB is not able to provide a screening decision within the 45 day time period as per Section 12.4.5 of the NLCA and therefore requires additional time to screen the project proposal. It is anticipated that the screening process will be completed by June 24, 2011.

If this request is approved, the NIRB understands that the authorizing agency will inform the Proponent, stakeholders and interested Parties of the extension.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Autut', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephanie Autut  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: John Witteman, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.  
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