

NIRB File No.: 17EA068 Related to NIRB File No: 16EN035 NPC File No. 148849

July 13, 2018

To: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, P.C.

Minister of Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: minister@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca and carolyn.bennett@canada.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Whale Cove Area, Exploration Projects" Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Minister:

On May 31, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (Agnico Eagle or Proponent) "Whale Cove Area, Exploration Projects" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission for screening, pursuant to Part 3 of the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (NuPPAA). Pursuant to s. 92(4) of the NuPPAA, the NIRB hereby requests that the responsible Minister extend the period for the submission of the Board's written report for the screening of this project proposal, NIRB File No. 17EA068.

The NIRB received the Proponent's online application on June 5, 2018 and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*. On June 12, 2018 the NIRB distributed notice of the project proposal to potentially affected communities and interested parties with a request for comments to be submitted for the Board's consideration by July 3, 2018. On or before July 3, 2018, the NIRB received comments from several interested parties, and owing to concerns raised, on July 4, 2018 the NIRB provided the Proponent an opportunity to respond; the Proponent's response to comments was received July 12, 2018. As a result of the time given to the Proponent to respond to concerns raised during the public commenting period, and recognizing the unavailability of board members during the NIRB's regular board meeting next week, the Board requires an extension to complete the screening to fully consider the project proposal and all comments and responses.

All documents received and pertaining to the NIRB's screening of this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at <a href="https://www.nirb.ca/project/148849">www.nirb.ca/project/148849</a>.

The NIRB is unable to provide its written report for the screening of this project proposal within the 45 days as set out in the *NuPPAA*. The NIRB anticipates that the screening of this project proposal will be completed by **August 3, 2018**, at which time a screening decision report will be submitted to the responsible Minister for consideration; should any additional time be required to conclude the screening process, the NIRB commits to providing further updates as deemed appropriate.

If this request is approved, the NIRB understands that the Minister will notify the Proponent and the NIRB of the extension.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding this request, please contact our office toll free at 1-866-233-3033.

Sincerely,

Ryan Barry

**Executive Director** 

Ryan Barry

Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: David Frenette, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.

David Ningeongan, Kivalliq Inuit Association

Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association

Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association

Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada