



NIRB File No.: 08YN047
NRI File No.: 03 046 10R-M
AANDC File No.: N2007Q0040
NWB File No.: 2BB-MEL0709

February 29, 2012

The Honourable Daniel Shewchuk
Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College
Government of Nunavut
c/o Mosha Cote, Manager Research Liaison
Nunavut Research Institute
Iqaluit, NU

Via email: Mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca

Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited's "Baseline Environmental Studies in Support of Meliadine Gold Project"

Dear Mosha Cote:

On February 13, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) for a renewal to Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited's (AEM) Scientific Research Licence for its "Baseline Environmental Studies in Support of the Meliadine Gold Project" proposal.

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 08YN047) was received by the NIRB from the NRI on April 16, 2008 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On May 22, 2008 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College, Government of Nunavut, indicating that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

On March 27, 2009 the NIRB received an application from the NRI for a one year renewal to the Scientific Research Licence for this project. After a thorough assessment of the renewal request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed Screening Decision Report on April 22, 2009.

On March 1, 2011 the NIRB received an application from the NRI for an additional one year renewal to the Scientific Research Licence for this project. After a thorough assessment of the

renewal request, the NIRB determined that the application was exempt from the requirement for screening as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA, and reissued the enclosed screening decision report on March 7, 2011.

The current NRI application, the original NIRB Screening Decision Report (NIRB File No. 08YN047) and related file information are available from the NIRB's ftp site at the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2008/08YN047,%2009YN030-Meliadine%20Baseline%20Assessment/>.

PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 08YN047), the “Baseline Environmental Studies in support of Comaplex Minerals Corporation – Meliadine West Gold Project, Kivalliq” (now “Meliadine Gold Project”, owned by Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.) project was located within the Kivalliq region, approximately 24 kilometres (km) northwest of Rankin Inlet.

The Proponent planned to collect the following baseline environmental data along the proposed all-weather road from Rankin Inlet to the project site:

- Collect wildlife data and document wildlife habitat;
- Aerial surveys for caribou (~six per year);
- Aerial caribou trail survey;
- Aerial survey for waterfowl;
- Upland songbirds and shorebirds survey;
- Aerial surveys for raptors;
- Vegetation field surveys: vegetation inventory to delineate the common plant communities and survey via helicopter to confirm interpretation of satellite imagery;
- Rare plant surveys and identify rare plant potential;
- Aquatic field surveys: detailed habitat mapping to describe and quantify fish habitat; watercourse crossing studies to identify and verify potential Arctic grayling spawning sites;
- Water quality and sediment quality surveys;
- Snowcourse survey and hydrometric monitoring; and,
- Heritage resources survey.

In 2009 and 2010, Comaplex (now AEM) applied to continue a number of surveys listed above to collect sufficient information for the future development of a mine.

In 2011 AEM applied for a one year renewal to its Scientific Research Licence for this project in order to collect sufficient information to characterize the areas which may potentially be impacted by the future development of a mine such as the Rankin Inlet Harbour and freshwater data collection in the vicinity of advanced exploration activities.

CURRENT APPLICATION

AEM is currently proposing to renew its Scientific Research Licence for an additional year to collect information gathering in order to characterize the areas which may potentially be impacted by the future development of a mine.

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.”

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed renewal 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 as per Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the original May 22, 2008 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact Kelli Gillard, Technical Advisor at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: John Witteman, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Enclosure: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 08YN047 (May 22, 2008)