



AGNICO EAGLE

February 7, 2023

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Sent via email: Kyle.Amsel@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca and Christine.Wilson3@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca

Re.: Follow-up to the Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Letter of December 21, 2022 - File: 2022-KIV12-KA

This letter is a follow-up to your letter of December 21, 2022, sent to Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle). Agnico Eagle understands that Sarliaq Orbit Garant (Orbit Garant) received a letter on the same matter.

Background

To support exploration geology at the Meliadine Operation, Agnico Eagle and Orbit Garant carried out drilling activities that placed drill rigs on top of the ice surface of waterbody A8, an activity authorized under Nunavut Water Board Water Licence no. 2BB-MEL1424. As identified in your December 21, 2022 letter, from March to May 2022, spills of material on the ice surface of A8 occurred and were reported within the 24 hour time period by Agnico Eagle through the NT-NU Spill Line.

Corrective Action and Due Diligence

Agnico Eagle treats compliance matters very seriously. We are committed to achieving

exemplary environmental performance at all our operations. Following all environmental incidents, we work towards understanding the causes and what remedial actions can be implemented to avoid the risk of re-occurrence.

Efforts to understand the cause of the events, implement corrective measures, and collaborate with CIRNAC were initiated immediately during the 2022 drilling on ice season following the events cited in the aforementioned letter. Information on each event was provided to CIRNAC in due time through the spill reports, spill follow-up reports and related communications. Collaborations over 2022 with CIRNAC, Environment Canada and Climate Change (ECCC), Kivalliq Inuit Associated (KIA), Agnico Eagle, and Orbit Garant included:

- A Letter of Intent dated April 28, 2022, from Orbit Garant addressed to Agnico Eagle and shared with CIRNAC and ECCC which committed to several actions to mitigate spill occurrences during the 2023 drilling on ice season;
- A collaborative effort by Agnico Eagle and Orbit Garant to clean up the ice surface and the shore of A8 through May and June 2022, as documented in the NT/NU Spill #2022188 Follow-Up Report;
- A meeting with CIRNAC and ECCC on May 17, 2022, during which Agnico Eagle and Orbit Garant committed to the development and implementation of a comprehensive drilling on ice Action Plan prior to the start of the 2023 winter drilling;
- The development of the Action Plan which focused on reducing the risk of re-occurrence;
- Review and discussion of the Action Plan and updated procedures with CIRNAC and ECCC through teleconference held on October 26, 2022, and with CIRNAC, ECCC, and KIA through teleconference held on January 11, 2023;
- Sharing of the Action Plan with CIRNAC and ECCC via email on October 28, 2022, and sharing of the revised Action Plan and improved procedures with CIRNAC, ECCC, and KIA on January 12, 2023; and
- A “dry run” of the improved procedures related to drilling in ice held at a drill rig located on land on February 1, 2023 which included CIRNAC, KIA, Agnico Eagle, and Orbit Garant.

Collectively, the actions taken work together to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to maintain compliance with regulatory requirements and commitments to best practice. Agnico Eagle would like to note that there has been a meaningful improvement in communication and collaboration between Agnico Eagle and Orbit Garant throughout the development and completion of the Action Plan. We are confident that the improvements made are key factors toward our goal of achieving zero non-compliance events.

We look forward to continuing to collaborate with CIRNAC and our other regulatory and community stakeholders. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

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Cc: Carol Plummer, Executive Vice President, Operational Excellence
Martin Plante, Vice President, Nunavut
Jean-Claude Blais, General Manager, Meliadine