



NIRB File No.: 10EA018

NWB File Nos.: 2BE-MEP0813; 2BB-MEL0914

KIA File No.: KVL308C07

February 10, 2011

Phyllis Beaulieu
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU, X0A 1J0

Via email: licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org

Re: Clarification of Scope for NIRB Screening of the “Meliadine Gold Underground Exploration” project proposal, NIRB File No. 10EA018

Dear Phyllis Beaulieu:

On January 24, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a request for clarification from the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) regarding NWB Licence 2BE-MEP0813 associated with the Meliadine Gold Project, more specifically with the property known as “Meliadine East.”

The NIRB has previously screened exploration activities at the property known as “Meliadine East” through several project proposals submitted to the Board:

NIRB File No.	Proponent	Associated licences	Activities included within NIRB Scope	Outcome of screening
00WR084	Cumberland Resources	2ATU9899	Water licence in support of mineral exploration at Atutik Lake	April 5, 2000 the NIRB issued a 12.4.4(a) Screening Decision with associated terms and conditions
03ER061	Cumberland Resources	NWB2ATU	Renewal of water licence in support of mineral exploration at Atutik Lake	May 22, 2003 the NIRB issued a 12.4.4(a) Screening Decision with associated terms and conditions
08EN043	Meliadine Resources Ltd.	KVL308C07; KVL204J31; 2ME-MEP-	Campsite Renovations; Helicopter operations; Geological mapping and	May 22, 2008 the NIRB issued a 12.4.4(a) Screening

		xxxx	prospecting; Diamond drilling; Fuel storage; and Waste disposal.	Decision with associated terms and conditions.
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Most recently, on February 25, 2010 the Nunavut Impact Review Board received Comaplex Minerals Corp.'s [Comaplex; now Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (AEM)] "Meliadine Gold Underground Exploration" project proposal directly from Comaplex. On March 8, 2010 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 (NIRB File No.: 10EA018).

During this screening it was noted that the Project involved the expansion of the existing portal, ramp and existing infrastructure to conduct bulk sampling at deeper depths while completing the feasibility study for a potential Meliadine Gold Mine. It was also noted that some portions of the proposed bulk sample project had been previously screened by the NIRB (NIRB File Nos.: 03EN077, 05EN006, 05EN101, 07AN063, 08EN005 and 08EN043), including the following activities: winter road, wash car, waste water treatment plant, new wetlands area, bulk sampling tower and fuel transfer stations.

When describing the expansion of the exploration camp at Meliadine Lake, Comaplex noted in its February 2010 project proposal that "many of the additional sleeping and kitchen tents [would] be obtained from the demobilization of the Meliadine East camp, which Comaplex recently consolidated into the project."¹ The NIRB understood this demobilization to mean that future exploration activities at the property formerly known as Meliadine East (NWB File No.: 2BE-MEP0913) would be based out of the camp infrastructure situated on the "Meliadine West" property (NWB File No.: 2BB-MEL0914) in support of one comprehensive Meliadine Gold Project.

As such, the NIRB included the exploration activities previously associated with the Meliadine East Project (NIRB File No.: 08EN043) within the scope of the Board's screening for the Meliadine Gold Project (NIRB File No.: 10EA018). The project proposal was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the NLCA and on May 5, 2010 the NIRB issued the enclosed NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada indicating the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

If you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the NIRB's screening of AEM's Meliadine Gold Project, please contact Kelli Gillard, Technical Advisor, at kgillard@nirb.ca or by phone (876) 983-4619.

¹ page 7 of "Meliadine Gold Project Amendment to the Application to Conduct Underground Mineral Exploration and Assemble a Bulk Sample;" page 14 of Comaplex's NWB Water Licence Application Supplementary Questionnaire for Advance Exploration (February 2010)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan Barry
Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: John Witteman, AEM
Luis Manzo, KIA
Jeff Mercer, INAC

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report for File No. 10EA018 (May 5, 2010)