



**NIRB File No.: 11EN010**

August 11, 2015

Richard Aksawnee  
Chairperson, Baker Lake HTO  
P.O. Box 255  
Baker Lake, NU X0C 0A0  
Fax: (867) 793-2034

*Sent via fax and email: [bakerhto@qiniq.com](mailto:bakerhto@qiniq.com)*

**Re: Baker Lake HTO Request to Extend Commenting Deadline and for Public Consultation on Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Amaruq Exploration Access Road" Project Proposal**

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Dear Richard Aksawnee:

Thank you for your recent letter sent August 5, 2015 to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) on behalf of the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) in which concerns were expressed about the ability of community members from Baker Lake and members from the HTO to provide comments on Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM) "Amaruq Exploration Access Road" project proposal. Specifically, the HTO requested that the NIRB extend the commenting deadline beyond August 12, 2015 and to hold public meetings to inform the community of the proposal and explain in detail the proposed infrastructure. On August 11, 2015 the NIRB received additional clarification that the HTO would consider the week of September 8<sup>th</sup> to be the best time to hold the requested meeting.

The NIRB would like to remind all parties that it is the Proponent's obligation to conduct project-specific consultation, and the Board's undertaking of any community consultation during the assessment process does not discharge the obligation of the Proponent. The NIRB encourages AEM to also respond to the HTO's consultation concerns and requests to supply additional information about AEM's project proposal to the HTO and community members in general. However, the NIRB also endeavours to conduct a public process which encourages effective public participation and, as such, the Board recognizes the importance of community members having received sufficient information to participate fully in the NIRB's assessment process.

The Board has determined that a community information session will be held during the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>, in line with the HTO recommendation, to provide additional information on the proposed project, as well as solicit feedback on the proposal. The NIRB is extending the

deadline for comments on this proposal to one week following the community information session. By copy of this letter to parties, the NIRB is providing notice to all interested parties that the commenting deadline has been extended to **September 16, 2015** for the AEM “Amaruq Exploration Access Road” project proposal. Please note that due to the special nature of this request, the NIRB is varying, under item 4.3 of the NIRB’s Rules of Procedure<sup>1</sup>, the public notice requirement for the community information sessions to accommodate both the timelines for community information sessions, but also the requirements for completing the NIRB’s screening assessment.

In closing, the NIRB appreciates the concerns raised by the HTO regarding the need for community involvement in the NIRB process. If you require clarification on other issues associated with the NIRB’s process for the screening of the “Amaruq Exploration Access Road” project proposal, please contact the undersigned directly at [sgranchinho@nirb.ca](mailto:sgranchinho@nirb.ca) or (867) 857-2052.

Sincerely,



Sophia Granchinho, M.Sc., EP  
Senior Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List  
Stéphane Robert, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.  
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board  
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Enclosures: Baker Lake HTO Letter to the NIRB regarding Amaruq Exploration Access Road, File No. 11EN010 (*August 5, 2015*)  
Baker Lake HTO Email to the NIRB regarding Timing of Meetings (*August 11, 2015*)

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<sup>1</sup> NIRB Rules of Procedure, September 3, 2009.