

MISEMA – BLANCHE RIVER ALLIANCE

August 15, 2024

Re: ERO-019-8949—Agnico Eagle Mineral Exploration Permit
Ministry Reference — PR-24-000155

The Misema Blanche River Alliance (MBRA) is a not-for-profit organization comprised of residents from the Misema River (Beaverhouse Lake), advocating for environmentally and socially sustainable development pertaining to Agnico Eagle's Abitibi-Kirkland Lake development corridor.

The Misema-Blanche requests the application for a *Mineral Exploration Permit Ontario ERO 019-8949* be considered within the context of Agnico Eagle's Upper Beaver Gold Project. This project is pending approval from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC), with Agnico Eagle yet to submit their Impact Statement.

The MBRA contends that the proximity of the Upper Beaver Project to an existing sensitive land use area of residential stakeholders necessitates consideration of Section 7 of the Impact Assessment Act; *"section 7.6 of the Guidelines require the Proponent to consider potential cumulative effects of the Project in combination with existing and future mining activities in the region,"*.

The Ontario Environmental Protection Act encourages public involvement in environmental decision-making processes, allowing citizens to voice concerns, provide input, and participate in discussions related to environmental issues that affect their quality of life.

Overall, while the Ontario Environmental Protection Act is an important tool for protecting the environment and public health, its effectiveness in safeguarding the quality of life for citizens depends on robust enforcement, compliance, and ongoing efforts to address emerging environmental challenges facing the province.

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Key aspects to be considered in evaluating the cumulative adverse effects of this application include:

- Noise Contamination, its adverse and cumulative effects on the existing residential sensitive land use. We ask that the Ontario D1, D6 and NPC-300 guidelines be applied to this application regarding Class III Industrial operations and existing sensitive land use (residential).
- The closure of Beaverhouse Road under the *Ontario Road Access Act*, implicating stakeholder *Prescriptive Rights*, and the impact of future activities such as this application that may impact the proposed alternative access road to Beaverhouse Lake.
- The use of Fork Lake Road as an alternative access route raises concerns about the long-term implications, given the proximity to *aggregate resources*, additional exploration activities, proposed *diversion of the Misema River*, a *proposed open pit* and the concern of a *potential expansion of the open pit* based on exploration findings. Furthermore, the proximity to a previous drill hole with exceptional results adds complexity to the assessment.

It is imperative that these considerations are thoroughly addressed to ensure compliance with regulatory frameworks and the mitigation of potential environmental and social impacts associated with the Mineral Exploration Permit application.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

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