



Quebec City, June 9, 2023

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SUBJECT: Wasamac Designated Project - Application of the *Impact Assessment Act* to the Advanced Exploration Program leading to Bulk Sampling

Sylvie Baillargeon,

The purpose of this letter is to remind you that, under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), the proponent of a designated project must not do any act or thing in connection with the carrying out of the project, in whole or in part and that may cause any of the effects listed in subsection 7(1) of the IAA.

The Wasamac Gold Mine Project is a designated project (Wasamac Designated Project) under the IAA and has been undergoing a federal Impact Assessment since March 2021. Related documents, including the Initial Project Description, the Detailed Project Description and the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, are published on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry and are available to participants in the Impact Assessment of the designated project.

On November 30, 2022, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) received the document entitled *Résumé du programme d'échantillonnage en vrac* (Summary) from the proponent Yamana Gold. The Summary includes a description of the planned work to carry out the advanced exploration program, leading to bulk sampling at the site of the Wasamac Designated Project. In a subsequent mailing, Yamana Gold provided a list of permit applications and authorizations submitted for the same work.

In March 2023, Agnico Eagle acquired the site. Since then, Agnico Eagle has withdrawn its permit applications to the Government of Quebec for the advanced exploration program.

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Based on the Agency's analysis of the Summary, the prohibitions set out in section 7(1) of the IAA could apply to several of the activities proposed for the advanced exploration program.

These activities are similar to, or the same as, those which are part of the Wasamac Designated Project, which is the subject of the current federal Impact Assessment.

Early in the impact assessment process for the Wasamac Designated Project, participants raised concerns about the construction of surface infrastructure and mining operations. Advanced exploration program activities that are similar to, or part of, those of the Wasamac Designated Project necessarily raise the same concerns for participants.

The Agency therefore wishes to be kept informed of Agnico Eagle's intentions regarding any planning of work related to advanced exploration that may take place prior to the Minister's decision statement on the Wasamac Designated Project's Impact Assessment. This includes, but is not limited to, any engagement or consultation activities regarding such work with participants in the impact assessment, and any applications for permits and authorizations submitted to carry out such work.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (418) 572-8746 or by e-mail at laurie.tremblay@iaac-aeic.gc.ca. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

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Laurie Tremblay, Project Manager
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada