Arctic Mining: Environmental issues, mitigation and pollution control for marine and coastal mining-Workshop March 21, 22, 23, 2023



Speaker: Alex Buchan, Agnico Eagle Director of Nunavut Affairs, Stakeholder Engagement

Biography: Alex Buchan is an Inuk residing in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut with a background in wildlife management and community economic development with previous work experience at the municipal and territorial government levels. He is an active marine mammal and fish harvester. He has been actively supporting Hope Bay gold mine development for over 15 years, and is now the Agnico Eagle Director of Nunavut Affairs, as well as representing the company as Vice President (Nunavut) on the NWT/Nunavut Chamber of Mines."

Abstract:

It is possible to discover, explore, permit, construct and operate a modern mine in Canada's Nunavut territory without significant adverse effects on the marine environment. Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. is the largest mine operator in the Nunavut territory of Canada, with 3 operating areas that have existed for 14, 13 and 6 years respectively. Agnico Eagle makes use of the marine environment to conduct an annual commodity and equipment resupply, and for discharging tested and treated mine effluent. Agnico Eagle Nunavut operations have been subject to Canadian Mining and Marine Transportation regulation, Nunavut co-management environmental assessment and licensing, and Inuit Owned Land Management practices. Annual reporting under this regime demonstrates that no significant adverse environmental impacts have been experienced within this level of development. Existing Nunavut marine environmental management could be considered a best practice among similar jurisdictions.