



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Eastern Arctic Area

P.O. Box 358
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Phone: (867) 979-8000
Fax : (867) 979-8039

Secteur de l'Arctique de l'est

Boîte postale 358
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Tél: (867) 979-8000
Télécopieur: (867) 979-8039

May 12, 2008

NWB file
8BC-TEH0708
Our file:
NU-08-0013

Rachel Gould
Project Manager
Environmental Permitting & Compliance Monitoring
Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
#375 - 555 Burrard Street
Two Bentall Centre
Vancouver, BC
V7X 1M4

Dear Ms. Gould:

**Subject: Fisheries and Oceans Canada Comments on the Western Channel
Crossing Supplemental Information Package**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has reviewed the documents accompanying the *Fisheries Act* subsection 35(2) authorization application, dated May 6, 2008, and supplemental information concerning the installation of several culverts at the westernmost channel crossing on the Meadowbank property. The application for authorization dated April 30, 2008 needs to be signed by the trustee and returned to DFO for processing.

DFO appreciates Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited's (AEM) efforts in addressing DFO's concerns regarding the westernmost channel culvert crossing. In the technical memorandum dated April 29, 2008 and in drawing 2600-02, the culverts are proposed to be embedded and backfilled with crushed granular material to facilitate fish passage. As the substrate in the location of the crossing may consist of bedrock with boulders and may require blasting, DFO recommends that the blasting activities follow the *Guidelines for Use of Explosives in or around Canadian Fisheries Waters*. These guidelines can be accessed at the following website link (http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans-habitat/habitat/water-eau/explosives-explosifs/index_e.asp).

DFO has no objection to the proposed habitat mount that is proposed in Second Portage Lake as fish habitat compensation. However, the technical memorandum dated May 6, 2008 indicates that the construction of the habitat mount will likely require several years to construct in order to meet the design intent. DFO recommends that the habitat mount be constructed in a single year as subsequent placement of rock may delay the availability of fish habitat to the fish population for several years. Please provide alternative methods of constructing the habitat mount to reduce the amount of years that may be required for construction.

The Western Channel Crossing – Habitat Compensation Monitoring Plan is thorough and descriptive as it details the physical and ecological monitoring components as well as the success criteria for the fish habitat feature.

Once the additional information is received, DFO will be able to continue its review of the proposal under the *Fisheries Act*. Should you have any questions, please contact me by telephone at (867) 979-8007 or by fax at (867) 979-8039.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by:

Amy Liu
Habitat Management Biologist
Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Eastern Arctic Area

Copy: Keith Pelley - Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Larry Connell – Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited
Richard Dwyer - Nunavut Water Board