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Department of Environment

Ministère de l'Environnement

April 22, 2008

Richard Dwyer
Licensing Administrator
Nunavut Water Board

via Email to: licensingadmin@nunavutwaterboard.org

RE: NWB FILE # 8BC-TEH – AGNICO-EGALE MINES LTD. – MEADOWBANK TEHEK LAKE ACCESS ROAD RENEWAL & AMENDMENT APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Dwyer:

The Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment (DOE) has reviewed the Type B water license renewal and amendment application for the Tehek Lake Access Road project. The amendment to the application is related to the pre-development of the Meadowbank gold mine project approximately 70 km north of Baker Lake, submitted by Agnico-Ealge Mines Ltd. Based on the *Environmental Protection Act*, DOE has the following comments to make regarding licensing, water quality, spill contingency, and abandonment & restoration.

A. LICENSING

This Tehek Lake Type B water license application is related to the Type A water license application for the Meadowbank mine project, which is currently undergoing review. DOE therefore recommends terms and conditions from this Type B license application if approved, be incorporated into the single enforceable Type A water license if issued that deals with management, mitigation and monitoring of waste and water related issues holistically.

B. WATER QUALITY

The Waste and Water Management Plan for Mine Pre-Development Work indicates that excess water within the two starter pits during rock excavation in the Portage Pit area, may potentially be diverted to the Lake #1 (the Tear Drop Lake), and the Lake #2 (an unknown lake). Prior to this diversion, contact water will be treated to meet Metal Mining Effluent Regulations standards for certain parameters if necessary in attenuation ponds before discharge to the two lakes. Subsequently, the overflow from these two lakes will ultimately enter the Second Portage Lake. Water quality within these two lakes will be monitored for metals, total ammonia, nitrate and sulphate. However, it is unclear what discharge

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standards will be met prior to discharge from the two lakes to the environment (i.e., the Second Portage Lake).

For Lake #1, as the lake is a fishless lake, and is to be used as a storm water management pond with installation of impervious walls, DOE recommends as a minimum, the overflow or discharge to the Second Portage Lake should comply with MMER at the discharge point. Additionally, the discharge should comply with CCME freshwater aquatic life guidelines within a 30 meter radius from the discharge point.

For Lake #2, baseline of the lake is unknown, and it is unclear how the lake will be designed for its intended purpose; for example, will Lake #2 be used a storm water management pond with installation of impervious walls as Lake #1? This should be clarified before one can determine whether it is appropriate to use this lake to store contact and/or treated water. This baseline information along impact assessment will further inform appropriate management, mitigation and monitoring measures.

C.SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN

Based on the DOE's *Spill Contingency Planning and Reporting Regulations,* and *Spill Reporting in Nunavut: a Guide to the New Regulations*, the DOE has the following comments to make:

- A site map that is intended to illustrate the facilities relationship to other areas that may be affected by the spill. The map should be to scale and be large enough to include the location of your facility, nearby buildings or facilities, roads, culverts, drainage patters, and any nearby bodies of water. The map should be included within the spill plan.

D. ABANDONMENT & RESTORATION

To ensure proper reclamation of the project site after closure, the DOE recommends the following:

- It is unclear whether the proponent is committed to restore the Lake #1 and #2 as discussed in Section B above, upon project closure. These two lakes should be restored to ensure their water quality meets appropriate standards, such as the CCME freshwater aquatic life guidelines upon closure.

- For incineration of camp wastes as proposed in the application, it is unclear emission standards from incineration that the proponent intends to meet. During the review of the Type A license, the proponent provided the Incineration Waste Management Plan where they committed to comply with the Canada-Wide Standards. However, it is unclear whether commitments made in the Type A license application will be applied to this Type B license application. This should be clarified. For specific

recommendation for compliance with the Canada-Wide Standards, please refer to the Appendix A below.

DOE thanks the NWB for the opportunity to provide comments on the Tehek Lake renewal and amendment water license application. Please contact us if you have further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by

Helen Yeh
Acting Manager, Land Use & Environmental Assessment
Department of Environment
Government of Nunavut

APPENDIX A: CAMP INCINERATOR

The Government of Nunavut is a signatory to the *Canada-Wide Standards for Dioxins and Furans*, and the *Canada-Wide Standards for Mercury Emissions*. For incineration of camp wastes, the following comments are provided.

For a camp of more than 50 people, the proponent shall apply appropriate technologies to ensure complete combustion of wastes, and emissions from an incinerator comply with the standards. The use of a dual chamber, controlled-air flow incinerator is recommended, and compliance with the Standards shall be demonstrated with an initial stack test upon commission of the incinerator on site. During the course of operations, the proponent shall make determined efforts to achieve compliance with the Standards. Determined efforts shall include the implementation of a comprehensive waste management strategy (especially waste segregation) that is designed to reduce and control the volumes of wastes produced, transported, and disposed of. Additionally, the efforts shall also include but not be limited to appropriate record management, including maintenance reports, operator training logs, and the submission of an annual report that outlines the efforts made to achieve compliance with the Standards.

Finally, waste wood treated with preservatives such as creosote, pentachlorophenol or heavy metal solutions should not be burned. Additionally, plastics, electrical wire, asbestos and building demolition wastes (except clean wood) are wastes likely to produce dioxins and furans when burned and should be excluded from incineration.