



31 July 2012

Bobby Bedingfield
Fish Habitat Biologist
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
7646-8th Street NE
Calgary, AB T2E8X4

RE: Phase 1 All-Weather Access Road: Temporary Crossing of M5 Stream

Dear Mr. Bedingfield,

Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited (AEM) received approval from the Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Nunavut Water Board in early 2012 to build the Phase 1 All-Weather Access Road between Rankin Inlet and the Meliadine advanced exploration site as shown on figure 1. Work on the road began immediately after the approvals and continued while the ice bridges allowed.

Over this summer AEM has been active in building bridges over the Char and the Meliadine Rivers with the latter to be completed by mid August. This work was expedited by bridge building machinery being able to ford the rivers a number of times. By mid August AEM will begin to build the M5 bridge and as with the Char and Meliadine Rivers, will need to ford the stream a number of times. While there is a firm substrate in the Char and Meliadine Rivers, this is not the case at M5. Repeated fordings of this stream is not possible without disturbing the soft substrate, something AEM wants to avoid as M5 is fish habitat.

AEM is considering two options in establishing a temporary crossing at the location shown on the attached photo:

- Placing clean, large quarried rock in the water crossing to allow the fording of the stream. This would include a channel through the rock to allow the continued passage of fish from one lake to the other; or
- Using a series of culverts covered with coarse quarried rock to allow passage of the heavy equipment. The culverts would allow fish passage.

Either option would allow both bridge building and road building equipment to cross the stream with ease. AEM prefers the first option as it is easier to construct and will be more than adequate in allowing heavy machinery to cross the stream without continually disturbing the soft substrate. However, AEM remains prepared to install the culverts if necessary. The temporary crossing will only remain in place for approximately three weeks after which it will be removed and the area reclaimed.

AEM is anxious in knowing if our approach is acceptable to DFO and look forward to your early advice on our options in crossing the M5 stream.

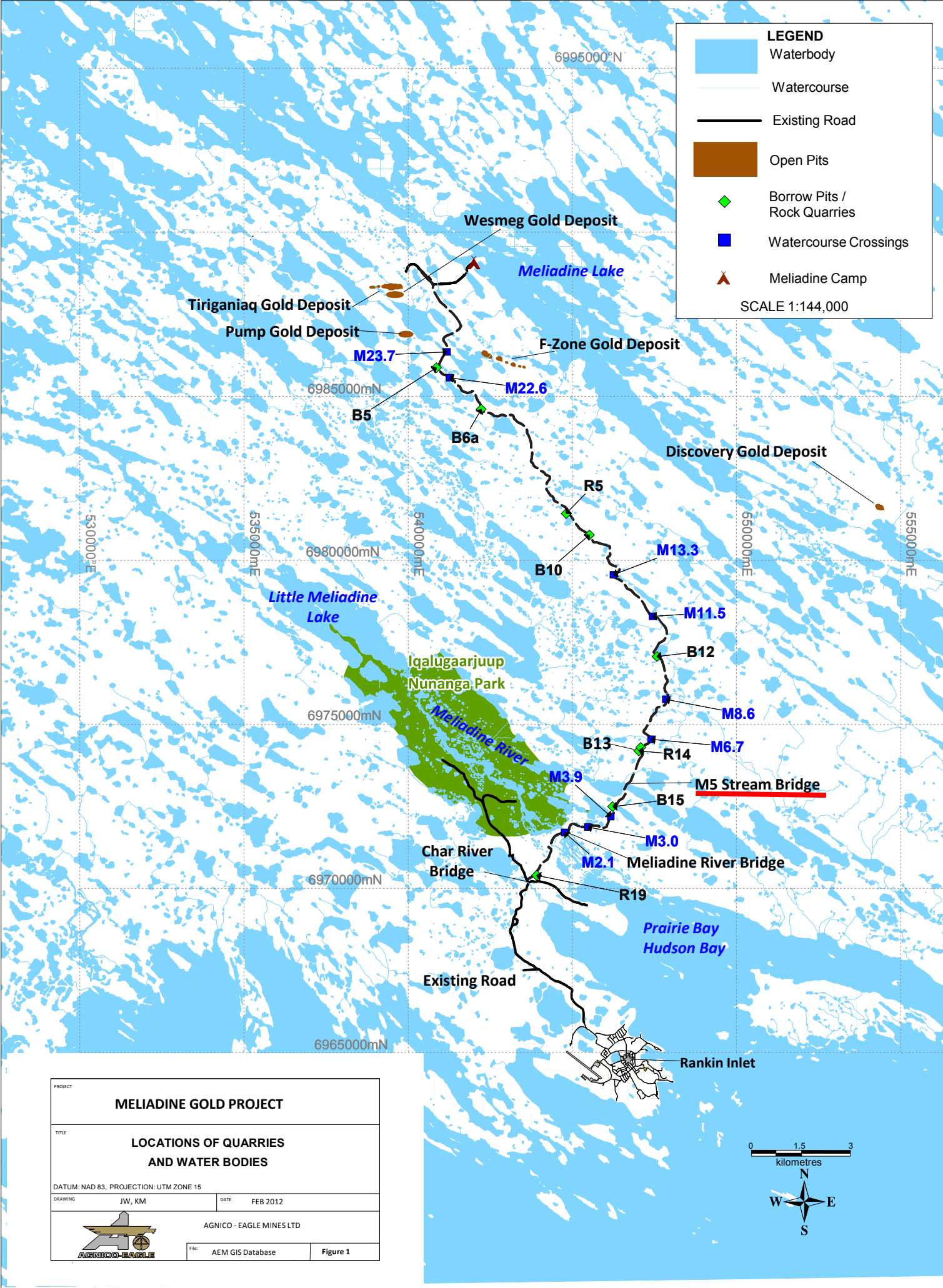
Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate in calling me at 819 277 5444 or jwitteman@agnico-eagle.com

Yours sincerely,



John Witteman

Cc. Nunavut Water Board
Kivalliq Inuit Association
Stephane Robert, Jack Dutil, Josee Noel - AEM



Bridge Center line

Bypass road Center line

