



Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program
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Programme de protection du poisson et de son habitat
Région de l'Arctique
301 – 5204 50th Ave. (Franklin)
Yellowknife, Territoires du Nord-Ouest
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April 21, 2026

Your file *Votre référence*
2AM-DOH1335

Ali Shaikh
Nunavut Water Board
PO Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU
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Subject: Follow-up Comments to Agnico Eagle Response to Comments to 2AM-DOH1335 Water Licence Amendment – Operational Update – Information Requests / Completeness Check

Dear Ali Shaikh,

The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) received on April 10, 2026, your request to confirm whether concerns have been addressed in relation to the information provided and completeness of the Amendment Application for the Doris-Madrid (Hope Bay) Project Type A Water License No: 2AM-DOH1335.

DFO has reviewed Agnico Eagle Mines Limited’s response to comments, and confirms that concerns were addressed for the following three comments:

- DFO-IR-01
- DFO-IR-02
- DFO-IR-03

While the three comments listed below warranted follow-up as described:

- DFO-IR-04
- DFO-IR-05
- DFO-IR-06

Comment Number:	DFO-4
Subject/Topic:	Response Framework / Action Levels for Water Quantity – Lake Levels and Stream Flow
References:	App 6-A Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan

Comment:	Gap/Issue: No response framework or action levels are included in the AEMP for water quantity including lake levels and stream flow.
Conclusion/Request:	DFO requests the Proponent provide an updated AEMP that includes a response framework and action levels for water quantity, if lake levels or stream flow go below the predicted levels in the water license amendment application, should it be approved.
Agnico Eagle's Response:	The approved AEMP currently includes monitoring of water level, stream flow and ice thickness to validate water loss predictions related to the mine. Intake rates may be adjusted based on monitoring results to mitigate unanticipated effects to fish and fish habitat.
Follow-up Comment:	DFO acknowledges the monitoring of water level, stream flow and ice thickness to validate water loss predictions related to the mine, is currently part of the AEMP; and that intake rates may be adjusted based on monitoring results. However, the current state of the AEMP does not specifically state what hydrology criteria will trigger a response, what the trigger level for that criteria will be, and how this will ensure the DFO guidelines are not compromised (i.e. 10% under-ice water withdrawal, 10% instantaneous flow, 30% mean annual discharge). DFO holds its position that a functional AEMP plan should include a response framework for hydrological parameters similar to that of water quality.

Comment Number:	DFO-5
Subject/Topic:	Increased Shipping Associated with the Operational Update
References:	App 1-A Evaluation of Change and App 2-A NPC Determination
Comment:	Gap/Issue: Lack of information provided on the increased allowable number of vessels servicing the mine. Total allowable number of vessels is increasing from 7 (4 cargo and 3 fuel, NIRB Project Certification No. 009) to 20 (12 cargo and 8 fuel). However, no updated shipping management plan, mitigation measures, or assessed potential impacts are reported.
Conclusion/Request:	DFO recognizes that this issue may not fall under the purview of the Nunavut Water Board or be captured by this water license amendment. However, DFO requests the Proponent provide further information on the increase shipping servicing the project. An assessment of shipping related impacts associated with the increased number of

	vessels, updated shipping management plan, marine mammal monitoring program, underwater noise, and aquatic invasive species monitoring plans should be provided to regulators for review.
Agnico Eagle's Response:	Agnico Eagle agrees that shipping does not fall under the purview of the NWB mandate. However, it is important to note that Agnico Eagle will continue to operate in compliance with the approved Shipping Management Plan and Terms and Conditions under Project Certificate No.003 and No.009. To address DFO's comments: (see AEM's Response to comments for additional information).
Follow-up Comment:	DFO acknowledges AEM's response, and that shipping does not fall under the purview of the NWB mandate. However, DFO retains its position that in order to fully comply with the Fisheries Act and Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations, a more robust marine mammal monitoring program and a non-indigenous species/aquatic invasive species monitoring program would be required as part of the Shipping Management Plan.

Comment Number:	DFO-6
Subject/Topic:	Blast Vibration Monitoring
References:	App 6-D Explosives Management Plan and App 6-L Quarry Management Pla
Comment:	Gap/Issue: While the DFO guidelines are referenced in both documents (App 6-D and App 6-L), a detailed description of the method of blast monitoring taking place for all blasting activities on site in the proximity of fish bearing water is limited within the reports.
Conclusion/Request:	DFO requests the Proponent provide further information on the methods, frequency, and locations of blast monitoring taking place to ensure blast vibrations do not exceed DFO guidelines. Detailed blast monitoring plans should be provided to DFO for review for all blasting activities taking place near fish bearing waters.
Agnico Eagle's Response:	For blast monitoring, Hope Bay follows DFO guidelines for blasting and mitigations for fish habitat and does not believe a specific monitoring plan is required. As part of work activities (e.g., construction / blasting) on-site, Hope Bay implements an Internal Environmental Permit (IEP) prior to the activity taking place. This is an internal process to ensure compliance with permits, regulations, and environmental considerations are validated prior to an activity taking place. Within the Hope Bay IEP,

	<p>blasting and DFO guidelines are part of the process and discussion.</p> <p>Agnico Eagle maintains records of compliance data, refers to the document Guidelines for any required mitigation, and reports annually through Annual Reports.</p>
Follow-up Comment:	<p>DFO acknowledges that Hope Bay follows DFO guidelines for blasting and mitigations for fish habitat, however we do not have the documented plan that this is indeed the practice, how this monitoring is conducted to ensure DFO guidelines are met, how exceedances in DFO guidelines will be responded to, and how reporting of this information will occur. In addition, it is common practice for mining operations in the north to provide a blasting plan associated with significant blasting activities in proximity to fish habitat.</p> <p>DFO retains its positions that a detailed blast monitoring plan should be provided for this project, for all blasting activities taking place near fish bearing waters.</p>

Yours sincerely,



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