



Fisheries and Oceans
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Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program
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Régions de l'Arctique
Programme de protection du poisson et de son habitat
301 – 5204 50th Ave. (Wiihudeh)
Yellowknife, Territoires du Nord-Ouest
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July 9, 2026

Your file *Votre référence*
2AM-DOH1335, 2AM-BOS1835

Our file *Notre référence*
02-HCAA-CA-00117,
12-HCAA-CA7-00012

Nunavut Water Board
Attn: Robert Hunter
Licensing Administrator
PO Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU
X0B 1J0

Via email to: robert.hunter@nwb-oen.ca

**Subject: 2AM-DOH1335 & 2AM-BOS1835– Agnico Eagle – Hope Bay 2025
Annual Report**

Dear Robert Hunter,

The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) received your request for comments on April 13, 2026. DFO has reviewed the above 2025 Annual Monitoring Report in accordance with its mandate, i.e. the management, protection and conservation of fish and their habitats. The Nunavut Water Board (NWB) invited parties to submit comments.

DFO has reviewed the 2025 Annual Report including the following appendices:

- Appendix A: Doris-Madrid Water Licenses Concordance
- Appendix B: Boston Water License Concordance
- Appendix C: Site Layout – 2025
- Appendix D: Water License Monitoring Data
- Appendix E: Doris Mine 2025 Annual Water and Load Balance Assessment
- Appendix F: 2025 Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program – Annual Report

DFO provides the following for the NWB's consideration.

DFO is generally agreeable with Agnico Eagle Mine's reporting and has the following comments or concerns to provide at this time.

Comment Number:	DFO-1
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Subject/Topic:	Blast Monitoring for the Protection of Fish
References:	NWB Annual Report 2025
Comment:	The Proponent currently does not have an appropriate blast monitoring program to ensure the protection of fish and fish habitat. No documentation was provided within the NWB Annual Report submitted by the Proponent detailing monitoring of blasting and compliance with DFO guidelines. While the main report states that blasting did occur at Quarry D, Quarry AF, and Sump 1, no further details are provided regarding the monitoring of said blasts, nor compliance with DFO guidelines.
Conclusion/Request:	DFO requests the Proponent to develop a blast monitoring program with updated information in consultation with DFO. Currently, the 2017 Noise Abatement Plan (submitted as part of the NIRB Annual Report, not NWB) that is in use only references the 1998 DFO Guidelines and not the recommendations included in additional DFO guidance that requires a lower noise threshold of 50 kPa (Cott and Hanna, 2005). Additionally, the plan only considers noise associated with quarry blasting. DFO recommends the Noise Abatement Monitoring Plan be extended to all blasting associated with the mine, including underground and any other blasting that may take place in the future. The plan should detail how blast 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. DFO is currently engaging with the Proponent on this topic through the NWB WL Amendment process. The Proponent has agreed to develop a blast monitoring report to be provided in future annual reports (to both NIRB and NWB). DFO expects to be consulted regarding the updated plan and any future changes, as is common to other mining operations in Nunavut.

Comment Number:	DFO-2
Subject/Topic:	Update Erosion and Sediment Control for Future Works
References:	NWB Annual Report 2025
Comment:	DFO has recently released an interim standard for Planning for land-based erosion and sediment control. It is intended for use in implementing a plan for the management of sediment laden water when conducting works,

	undertakings and activities (projects) on land, near water. By following this standard, project proponents can reduce the risk of harmful impacts to fish and fish habitat
Conclusion/Request:	DFO recommends that the Proponent review the new DFO interim standard and consider incorporating the recommendations within the standard into an updated Water Management Plan. The interim standard should be used for all future works where erosion and sedimentation near water is a concern.

Comment Number:	DFO-3
Subject/Topic:	Response Framework / Action Levels for Water Quantity in an Update AEMP
References:	Appendix F: Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program – Annual Report
Comment:	DFO is currently engaging with the Proponent through their NWB WL Amendment process surrounding DFO's request that a response framework / action levels for water quantity (i.e., lake level, stream flow, etc.) be included in an updated AEMP to ensure impacts to fish and fish habitat associated with water withdrawal remain within authorized levels.
Conclusion/Request:	DFO and AEM are currently discussing this comment through the NWB WL Amendment process, as such, will be resolved through that process, and this comment is provided for information only. AEM has confirmed that a low, medium, and high action level for water quantity will be included in an updated AEMP.

Comment Number:	DFO-4
Subject/Topic:	Lack of Under Ice Monitoring Data
References:	Appendix F: Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program – Annual Report
Comment:	DFO would like to note concern associated with the lack of under ice lake level data available for the 2025 season. DFO understands there were safety concerns associated with the collection of this fish habitat data due to thin ice, however, it is expected that the Proponent monitor for under ice water levels to ensure compliance with DFO guidelines.
Conclusion/Request:	If thin ice is a concern going forward, DFO expects the Proponent to develop an alternative monitoring method to ensure this data is collected and reported in order to confirm compliance with DFO guidelines for under ice water withdrawal.

If you have any questions with the content of this letter, please contact Holly Simpson by email at Holly.Simpson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Please refer to the file number referenced above when corresponding with the Program.

Sincerely,

Dana Harris
A/Senior Biologist
Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

CC:
Holly Simpson, Fisheries and Oceans Canada