

Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Prairie & Northern Region
5019 52nd Street, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 2310
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7

ECCC File: 6100 000 010/042
NWB File: 2AM-DOH1335



July 13, 2022

via email at: licensing@nwb-oen.ca

Richard Dwyer
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Dear Richard Dwyer:

RE: 2AM-DOH1335 – Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. – Hope Bay Project – Submission of Care and Maintenance Plan

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has reviewed the information submitted to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) regarding the above-mentioned Care and Maintenance Plan submission.

ECCC is providing technical, science-based information and knowledge based on our mandate pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* and the pollution prevention provisions of the *Fisheries Act*. These comments are intended to inform the assessment of this project's potential effects in the receiving environment and on valued ecosystem components. Any comments received from ECCC in this context does not relieve the proponent of its obligations to respect all applicable federal legislation.

The following comments are provided:

1. Changes to Water Management – Tailings Impoundment Area

Reference(s)

- Section 3.3 - Tailings Impoundment Area, Hope Bay Care and Maintenance Plan Version 1
- Section 3.1.3 – Mine Water, Hope Bay Project Doris and Madrid Water Management Plan



Comment

As described in the Care and Maintenance (C&M) Plan and the Water Management Plan (WMP), there are minimal changes proposed for overall water management during the period of care and maintenance. One exception is that the C&M Plan proposes an “alternative water management strategy for mine water and for the TIA water to remain in regulatory compliance for discharge to the receiving environment”. The C&M Plan indicates that water management will require a new spillway and internal berms to address this strategy. This change in water management strategy is only briefly mentioned within the WMP, where the plan states, “management of underground water at the TIA may include segregation from reclaim within the footprint of the TIA either upstream of the internal dam or within a cell at the tailings beach.” However, the Proponent has not provided details on the rationale for the change, the timeline, or the predicted outcomes because of the change in water management strategy.

ECCC Recommendation(s)

ECCC recommends that the Proponent provide the following information in relation to the proposed new water management strategy at the tailings impoundment area:

1. Describe the existing issue that the new water management strategy is intended to mitigate
2. Provide a timeline for the implementation of the new water management strategy
3. Describe the predicted changes to discharge water quality with the implementation of the proposed water management strategy.

If you need more information, please contact Stephinie Mallon at Stephinie.Mallon@ec.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

[original signed by]

Stephinie Mallon
Environmental Assessment Officer

cc: Jody Small, Acting Head, Environmental Assessment North (NT and NU)