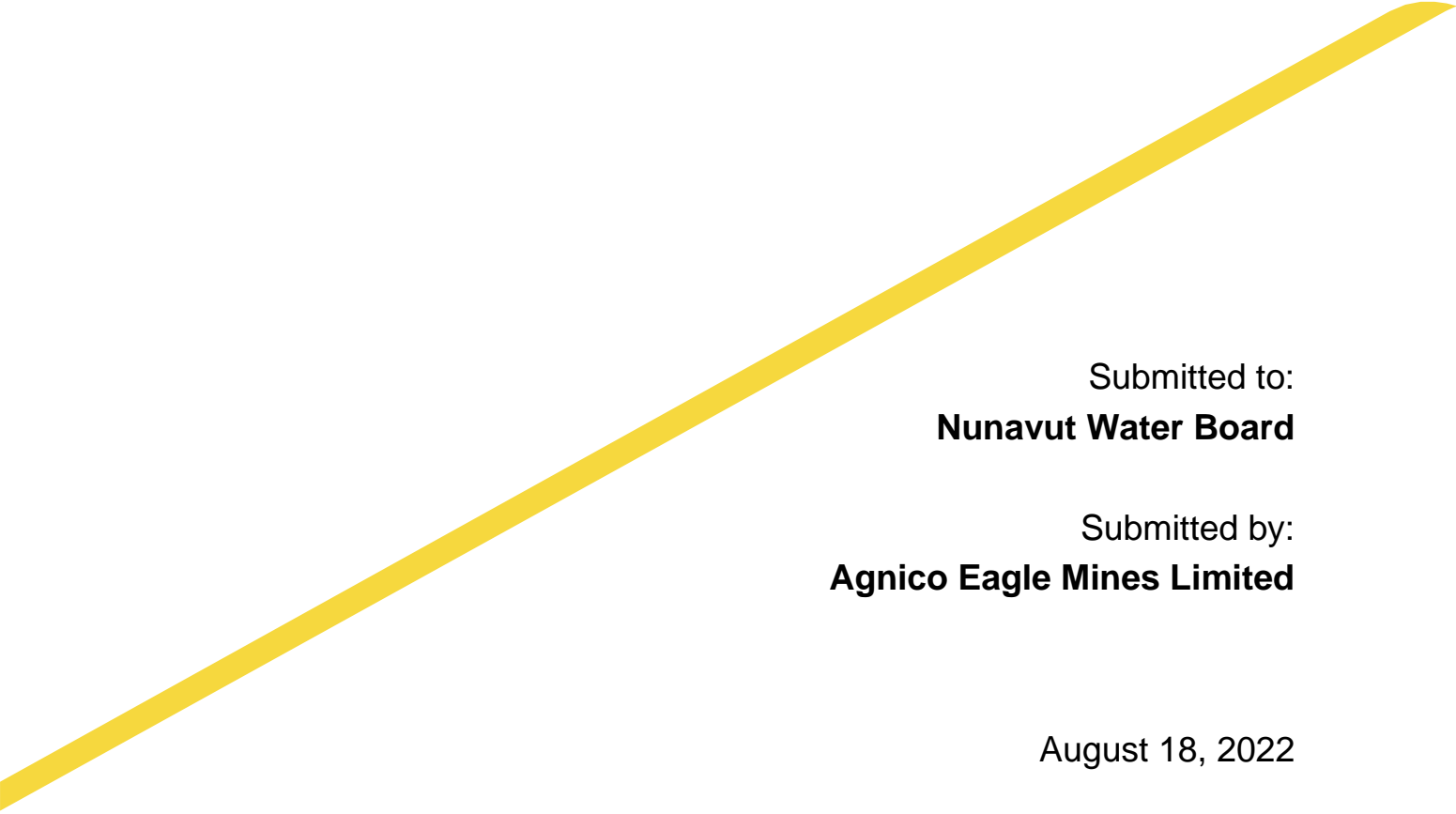




AGNICO EAGLE

Hope Bay Project

*Follow-up Responses to Comments Received on the
Hope Bay Care and Maintenance Plan*



Submitted to:
Nunavut Water Board

Submitted by:
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

August 18, 2022

Interested Party:	KIA	Rec No.:	KIA-9
Re:	Tailings Impoundment Area Water Quality and Non-Compliance Waters		

Initial Recommendation Made by Interested Party:

Agnico Eagle should provide more information within the Care and Maintenance plan outlining the TIA's capacity to store noncompliant water and what approaches may be considered if that capacity is reached given a reduced site presence during Care and Maintenance.

Agnico Eagle's Response to Initial Recommendation:

There will be no changes to the environment site personnel or management and monitoring of the Tailings Impoundment Area through Care and Maintenance. Agnico Eagle Mines Limited will continue to implement the monitoring outlined in the *Hope Bay Project, Phase 2 Doris Tailings Impoundment Area – Operations, Maintenance, and Surveillance Manual*.

Follow-up Recommendation Made by Interested Party:

We thank Agnico Eagle for their response and clarification. We still encourage Agnico Eagle to provide more information on the TIA's capacity to store non-compliant water (and time frames), which has not been addressed in their response.

Agnico Eagle's Response to Follow-up Recommendation:

Agnico is committed to complying with MDMER and will not discharge non-compliant water from the Doris TIA. The discharge strategy at Hope Bay maintains separate saline and non-saline effluent streams, which allows compliant water to be released into Roberts Bay. Compliant discharge of UG mine water commenced in June 2022.

Based on the future interpretation of TSS trends, Agnico has procured a water treatment plant for the Doris TIA water that would help to reduce seasonal elevated TSS concentrations below MDMER limits, to allow for more operational flexibility, prior to discharging to Robert's Bay. The WTP also has the capacity to treat water from underground dewatering. Treatment of both TIA and UG waters can be done by batch separately or by commingling the two sources. The design of the plant considers future expansion and the ability to treat metals as required via chemical dosing. Details of the water management at site can be found in the Hope Bay Project Doris and Madrid Water Management Plan (June 2022). Construction of the plant is scheduled for Fall 2022 and commissioning is anticipated by freshet 2023.

The water level in the TIA will be actively managed through discharges to Roberts Bay. Based on current plans, it is not until the last two to four years of the tailings deposition (depending on operational pond volumes) that the available pond storage in the TIA starts to approach the IDF storage volume requirement. Instead of lowering the elevation of the TIA's normal operating water level to accommodate the IDF storm event, an Emergency Overflow Channel (EOC) is currently being designed for the TIA. The EOC will also mitigate against the risk of an overtopping failure at the North Dam, remove the dependency

on an active management system and provide additional storage capacity due to operational water level limits being maintained (instead of reduced). Construction of the EOC is anticipated in 2023.

The TIA water and load balance tool is a tool used by Agnico to predict water levels in the TIA and communicate water balance updates and projections. An annual assessment of the TIA capacity is included in the TIA Annual Geotechnical Inspection submitted to the NWB with the annual report. As a result of these initiatives, future projections of the TIA water level (up to 2026) remain within the operational limits.