



Water Resources Division
Resource Management Directorate
Nunavut Regional Office
918 Nunavut Drive
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 3H0

Your file - Votre référence
2AM-DOH1335
Our file - Notre référence
GCDocs# 142772720

January 19, 2026

Robert Hunter
Licensing Administrator
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU, X0B 1J0
E-mail: licensing@nwb-oen.ca

**Re: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's Review of the
Licence Design Report (CWP3) Contact Water Pond 3 for Hope Bay Project, Type
A Water Licence No. 2AM-DOH1335**

Dear Robert,

Thank you for the January 6, 2026 invitation to review the referenced licence Design Report, submitted by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico), for Type A Water Licence No. 2AM-DOH1335.

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) examined the application pursuant to its mandated responsibilities under the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and the *Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Act*. Please find CIRNAC comments and recommendations in the attached Technical Memorandum.

The applicant shall provide confirmation from the Nunavut Water Board that all outstanding water license fees have been paid in full prior to approval of this application.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me at (867) 975-3877 or Joyce.Demers@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca or Andrew Keim at (867) 975-4550 or Andrew.Keim@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Joyce Ds

Joyce Demers, B.Sc.,
Industrial Coordinator



Technical Review Memorandum

Date: January 19, 2026

To: Robert Hunter – Licensing Administrator, Nunavut Water Board

From: Joyce Demers – Industrial Coordinator, CIRNAC

Subject: **Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada’s Review of the Licence Design Report (CWP3) Contact Water Pond 3 for Hope Bay Project, Type A Water Licence No. 2AM-DOH1335**

Region: Kitikmeot Kivalliq Qikiqtani

A. BACKGROUND

Hope Bay Gold Mine Project, owned by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico) is located approximately 110 km south of the Bathurst Inlet, 705 km northeast of Yellowknife, North West Territories and 153 km southwest of Cambridge Bay in Nunavut. The Hope Bay Project is made of three distinct areas: Doris, Madrid, and Boston. Hope Bay Mine Project which currently holds five separate water license (2AM-DOH1335, 2AM-BOS1835, 2BB-MAE1727, 2BB-BOS1727 and 2BE-HOP1222).

On February 18, 2022 Agnico announced their decision to suspend production at the Hope Bay project, placing the mine site into care and maintenance while continuing to upgrade the infrastructural facilities and conduct extensive exploration and confirmatory drilling around the site. They provided the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) with a formal notice of Care and Maintenance for Doris – Madrid operations on March 30, 2022.

Agnico retained AtkinsRéalis to develop a detailed design report for the Contact Water Pond 3 (CWP3) at the Hope Bay site under water license 2AM-DOH1335.

The purpose of the design is to temporary store contact water runoff from two main areas:

the Madrid deposit area:

- Sump 1: Contact water runoff from the south waste rock storage facility (WRSF)
- Sump 2: Contact water runoff from the Madrid Portal infrastructure pad
- Sump 3: Contact water runoff from the ore stockpile pad
- Sump 5: Contact water runoff from the north WRSF
- Sump 4: Contact water runoff from the overburden stockpile area
- Naartok Pit Sump: Contact water runoff collected in the Naartok Pit sump

And,



the Patch deposit area:

- Patch 7 CWP 4: contact water runoff from the ore stockpile pad and WRSF

The contact water runoff will be collected in CWP3 and pumped to the Tailings Impoundment Area (TIA) Reclaim Pond for re-use in the process plant or for treatment prior to discharge to the receiving environment.

CIRNAC provides the following comments and recommendations pertaining to the application package. A summary of the subjects of recommendations can be found in Table 1. Documents reviewed as part of this submission can be found in Table 2 of Section B. Detailed technical review comments can be found in Section C.

Table 1: Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation Number	Subject
R1	Location of CWP3
R2	Thermistors
R3	Transfer Schedule to TIA
R4	Access Road and Pumphouse

B. DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AND REFERENCED

The following table (Table 2) provides a list of the documents reviewed under the submission and reference during the review.

Table 2: Documents Reviewed and Referenced

Document Title	Author, File No., Rev., Date
260106 2AM-DOH1335 010626 Design Report CWP3-ILAE	AtkinsRéalisis, December 16, 2025



C. RESULTS OF REVIEW

1. Location of CWP3

Comment:

The application does not state where the CWP3 will be located. The concern is that the CWP3 could be located within 31 meters of the normal high water mark of a water body or that it is outside of the footprint of the Hope Bay Project.

Recommendation:

(R-01) CIRNAC recommends that the applicant provide information regarding the proposed location of the CWP3 preferably by photo in relations to other camp structures and water bodies and confirm that it is located within the footprint of the Hope Bay Project a minimum distance of 31 meters of the normal high water mark of a water body.

2. Thermistors

Comment:

Section 3.2.3 of the Design Report states that

“To ensure that the overburden / bedrock is frozen to the east of the CWP 3, a thermistor string will be installed along its eastern edge.”

It is unclear why thermistors are only going to be installed on that edge. The concern is that the thermistors will not detect if the CWP3 is functioning correctly meaning no spills occurring.

Recommendation:

(R-02) CIRNAC recommends that the applicant provide more information to demonstrate why the thermistors will be located on the East side of the CWP3.

3. Transfer Schedule to TIA

Comment:

It is unclear how long the CWP3 will retain contact water before it is transferred to the TIA or if CWP3 will continuously have contact water within it. The concern is that the design report states that CWP3 is only to be used temporarily as stated in section 3.1 “The CWP3 Pond is designed for temporary storage of water and is not designed as a permanent holding pond.”



Recommendation:

(R-03) CIRNAC recommends that the applicant provide more information on the proposed holding and transfer times and water balance.

4. Access Road and Pumphouse

Comment:

The design report mentions an access road and a pumphouse station however these do not seem to be included in the application or if they have been previously assessed and approved. It is unclear if the pumpstation will have pipes leading into and out of CWP3 and how often they will be inspected as well as other general information about the pumpstation.

The concern is that not all aspects of the application have been brought forward and the specifics related to its functional use are not clearly articulated.

Recommendation:

(R-04) CIRNAC recommends that the applicant provide more information on how the access road and pumpstation relate to CWP3 and more information on the how they will be built, managed, etc.