Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Relations Couronne-Autochtones et Affaires du Nord Canada

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#151167751

October 30, 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 Response to the Applicant Reply to the Review of the Sump 4 and Sump 5 Design Report for the Hope Bay Project, Type A Water Licence No. 2AM-DOH1335.

Dear Robert,

Thank you for the October 9, 2026 invitation to review the referenced licence Design Report, submitted by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, 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* and provides the following Technical Review Memorandum for the Board's consideration.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me at (873) 800-5240 or Pauline.Firmin@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca or Andrew Keim at (867) 975-4550 or Andrew.Keim@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Pauline Firmin

Pauline Firmin, M. Sc,
Regional Coordinator

Canada

Table 1: Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation Number	Subject	Status
R-01	Freeboard Height	Resolved with commitment
R-02	Locations Of The Proposed Sumps	Resolved
R-03	Sump 4 Stream Proximity	Partially Resolved
R-04	Access Roads Design And Construction	Resolved with commitment
R-05	Size and Storage Capacity Of Sump 5	Resolved

A. 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
Re: Response to Comments Sump 4 and Sump 5 Design Reports for the Hope Bay Type A Water Licence No. 2AM-DOH1335	Agnico Eagles, October 9, 2026

B. RESULTS OF REVIEW

1. Freeboard Height

Comment:

CIRNAC notes that the proposed freeboard for both Sump 4 and Sump 5 vary in the Design Reports. Section 3.1 of the design reports identifies a minimum freeboard of 0.5 m for both facilities; however, the associated drawings uses 1.0 m of freeboard height to estimate Sump 4 and 5 useful storage (Drawing No. 62-MAN-695-230-000-034 for Sump 4 and Drawing No. 62-MAN-695-230-000-018 for Sump 5).

It creates uncertainty regarding the final intended design storage capacity and the available contingency volume for managing contact water, which may not be sufficient if a 0.5 m freeboard height was used for the useful storage calculation. Given the role of these facilities in collecting and temporarily storing contact water, clarity regarding the freeboard height is important to evaluate the adequacy of water management and protection measures.

Recommendation:

(R-01) CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent provide a minimum freeboard of 1.0 m or more, to provide additional contingency capacity and greater assurance that the sumps can effectively manage contact water during operational, storm, and freshet conditions, thereby supporting water protection objectives.

Proponent's Response:

The design intent of the sump is to temporarily store contact water and transfer the content within a week to the main storage ponds. With that in mind, the minimum freeboard design criterion was set a 0.5 m. However, due to the design of the sump within the bedrock and the depth available, it was decided that a 1.0 m freeboard is achievable for these sumps.

CIRNAC's Response

CIRNAC thanks the proponent for their response and supports the approach of using a minimum freeboard height of 1.0 m to achieve the Sump 4 and 5 useful storage estimates.

3. Sump 4 Stream Proximity

Comment:

CIRNAC notes that Drawing No. 62-MAN-695-230-000-034 for Sump 4 identifies an existing stream in proximity to the proposed sump and crossing the proposed access road; however, the design report does not clearly indicate the distance between the stream, the proposed sump, and the proposed diversion berm(s).

While the construction sequence indicates that diversion berm(s) will be constructed to prevent water ingress during construction (Sump 4 Design Report, Section 4.4), the report

provides no information regarding proximity to the stream and or address potential interactions with nearby freshwater (Section 4.5). Given the potential for sedimentation, erosion, and dust generation due to blasting during construction, it is important that adequate measures are in place to protect nearby watercourses, such as the identified stream, and support compliance with water management requirements. Water Licence No. 2AM-DOH1335 requires the implementation of measures to prevent sediment entry into water and to control bank erosion and dust deposition to water bodies (e.g. Part D, Items 6 and 8; Part E, Items 10 and 12).

Recommendation:

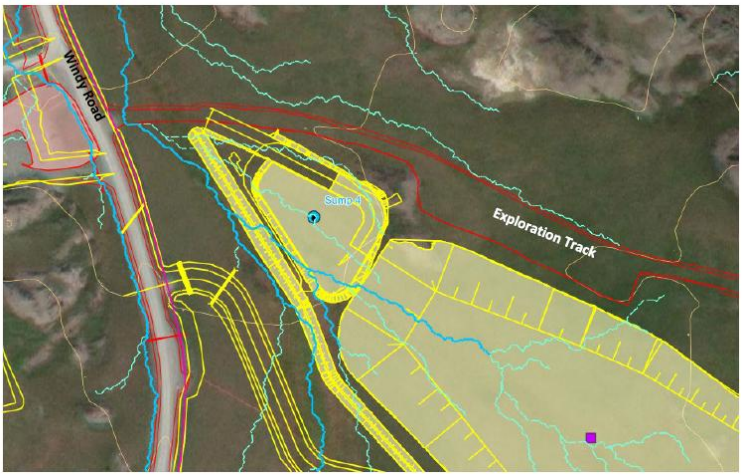
(R-03) CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent provide additional information on the proximity of Sump 4, the access road, and diversion berm(s) relative to the adjacent stream, and ensure all monitoring and mitigation measures be implemented during construction to minimize the potential for sedimentation, erosion, or dust deposition to nearby freshwater environments and align with all relevant Water Licence requirements.

Proponent's Response:

The figure below shows the main drainage path in the area where Sump 4 and the overburden area will be built. Currently, the runoff naturally drains to the corner of the existing exploration track and Windy Road and continues its path toward Patch Lake.

Sump 4 is excavated downstream of the planned overburden pile; therefore, all runoff from the overburden pile will flow via gravity into the sump. The main purpose of the diversion berm is to divert clean runoff away from Sump 4 so that only contact water from the overburden pile is managed.

Erosion and sediment control measures will be in place during construction (i.e., silt fence) to mitigate any erosion and sediments from entering the stream.



CIRNAC's Response

CIRNAC thanks the Proponent for the additional information regarding local drainage patterns, runoff management, and the proposed erosion and sediment control measures, including the use of silt fencing. However, the response does not include the distance between the proposed Sump 4, access road, and diversion berm(s) relative to the adjacent stream. The response also does not include the additional information regarding dust control measures that will be implemented during blasting and construction activities to prevent dust deposition to nearby watercourses and support compliance with applicable Water Licence requirements.

CIRNAC recommends that the Board ensure that the proponent provide :

a) The Proponent provide the distance between the proposed Sump 4, access road, and diversion berm(s) relative to the adjacent stream, and;
b) Additional information regarding dust control measures that will be implemented during blasting and construction activities to prevent dust deposition to nearby watercourses.

4. Access Roads Design And Construction

Comment:

CIRNAC notes that the Sump 4 Design Report identifies a proposed access road southwest of the sump footprint that crosses an existing stream (Drawing No. 62-MAN-695-230-000-034). However, the report does not appear to provide design or construction details for the access road or stream crossing, including road design, drainage controls, erosion and sediment control measures, water crossing design, or considerations related to permafrost disturbance and ground subsidence.

Similarly, the Sump 5 Design Report indicates that an access road and culvert crossing will be constructed, but provides limited information beyond the proposed road surface materials (Section 4.4). Given the proximity of these works to a watercourse, additional information is necessary to assess potential effects on surface water quality and aquatic environments and to demonstrate that the proposed infrastructure will be adequately protective.

Water Licence No. 2AM-DOH1335 requires detailed design information for water management facilities and all-weather roads, including design rationale, construction methods, and specifications for erosion, sedimentation, and bank stabilization measures (Part D, Item 1; Schedule D, Item 1).

Recommendation:

(R-04) CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent provide additional information regarding the design and construction of the proposed access roads and stream crossings

associated with Sump 4 and Sump 5, including drainage controls, culvert or crossing design, erosion and sediment control measures, and consideration of permafrost-related stability, to satisfy the information requirements of Water Licence No. 2AM-DOH1335 (Part D, Item 1; Schedule D, Item 1).

Proponent's Response:

Proposed access roads were not included in this design report submission. Separate submission(s) associated with culvert(s) will be submitted through the appropriate avenues in due course.

CIRNAC's Response

CIRNAC thanks the proponent for their response and notes the commitment that separate submission(s) associated with access roads and culvert(s) will be submitted. CIRNAC wishes to remind the proponent that no stream crossings can be built prior to the appropriate submission being made and approved by the Board.