



AGNICO EAGLE

August 6, 2026

Robert Hunter
Nunavut Water Board
PO Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU
X0B 1J0

Re: Agnico Eagle's Response to Comments on the Design Report for the Freshwater Intake at Windy Lake for the Hope Bay Project, Type A Water Licence No's. 2AM-DOH1335

Dear Mr. Hunter

Agnico Eagle thanks the Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) for their comments and review on the Design Report for the Freshwater Intake at Windy Lake for the Hope Bay Mine. Our comments to CIRNAC and DFO are provided in the enclosed.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the undersigned at your convenience.

Regards,

Colleen Prather
colleen.prather@agnicoeagle.com
Superintendent, Permitting & Regulatory Affairs

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CROWN-INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA (CIRNAC)

Interested Party:	CIRNAC	Rec No.:	CIRNAC-NWB-01
Re:	Constructions Activities Near or In Windy Lake		

Request Made by Interested Party:

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent provide additional information regarding the following:

- a) The erosion and sediment control measures that will be implemented during construction and operation of the intake, pumping station and construction/operations pad to prevent sediment mobilization into Windy Lake;*
- b) Any shoreline stabilization, bank protection, or erosion protection measures proposed for the intake area and associated infrastructure;*
- c) Measures that will be used to minimize potential water quality impacts during construction activities occurring near or in water; and*
- d) How any potentially contaminated water generated during construction (e.g., runoff, dewatering water, or water affected by equipment operation and material handling) will be contained, managed, and, if applicable, treated prior to release to the environment.*

The above are to be provided prior to any site work being implemented by the proponent.

Agnico Eagle's Response to Request:**Response to bullet a)**

The Water Management Plan (Section 4.1.1) outlines mitigations used to minimize potential water quality impacts during and after construction activities. These measures may include silt fencing and coco matting around construction activities and during rainfall and snowmelt periods.

Response to bullet b)

No shoreline destabilization and erosion concerns are anticipated from the construction and operation of the Windy North Intake as Agnico Eagle will be applying relevant mitigations as per the Water Management Plan during construction (Section 4.1.1), and the infrastructure will be regularly inspected during operations.

Response to bullet c)

The Water Management Plan (Section 4.1.1) outlines mitigations used to minimize potential water quality impacts during and after construction activities. These measures may include silt fencing and coco matting around construction activities and during rainfall and snowmelt periods. In the event of a spill, Agnico Eagle will follow the Spill Contingency Plan.

Response to bullet d)

The working pad will be constructed from clean material evaluated or determined through testing as NPAG. Best management practices for machinery are employed, with machinery arriving at the work site clean and free of leaks, inspected prior to use. Any water will be non-contact water and will be managed per the Water Management Plan (Section 4.1.1).

Interested Party:	CIRNAC	Rec No.:	CIRNAC-NWB-02
Re:	Water Returned to Source		

Request Made by Interested Party:

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent clarify:

- a) Whether the return of water to Windy Lake during operations is planned in the existing water management plans and authorized under the current licence conditions;*
- b) Whether there is any potential for contamination of the water during extraction, conveyance, storage, or pigging operations;*
- c) Whether the water returned to Windy Lake would be returned untreated or posttreatment, such as heated or chemically treated water;*
- d) Whether the volumes and frequency of return-water discharges to Windy Lake would be recorded and considered when calculating the total volume of water use from Windy Lake; and*
- e) Whether the potential for localized erosion, sediment mobilization, scour, or other physical impacts to the lakebed or shoreline at the proposed discharge location has been evaluated, and if so, if there is a potential for disruption and if mitigation measures may be used.*

Agnico Eagle's Response to Request:

Response to bullet a)

The direct return, or drainage, of water within a water intake pipeline back to the source lake is common practice. This practice is currently used at the Doris intake at Hope Bay.

Response to bullet b)

Agnico Eagle does not anticipate any potential for contamination during the extraction or conveyance of water, or during pigging operations. Windy Lake water quality will continue to be monitored following the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan.

Response to bullet c)

Water within the waterline that is returned to Windy Lake will be untreated. The water withdrawn from Windy Lake is not treated until it arrives in the potable water treatment plant, after the raw water tank.

Response to bullet d)

Regardless of if water is returned to Windy Lake, all water withdrawn from Windy Lake will be recorded. Per the Water Management Plan, the flow meter at the pump house would record water taken, and it would be included in the total volume of water withdrawn from Windy Lake under the existing or an amended Water Licence. Pigging operations are only anticipated if the draining of the waterline is required.

Response to bullet e)

Water returned to Windy Lake would drain through a separate pigging line. Agnico Eagle will take precautions to ensure the pigging line returns water to Windy Lake in a manner that does not result in erosion, sediment mobilization, scour, or other physical impacts to the lake bed or shoreline.

Interested Party:	CIRNAC	Rec No.:	CIRNAC-NWB-03
Re:	Pipeline Route		

Request Made by Interested Party:

CIRNAC recommends that the proponent clarify whether the entire pipeline will be constructed and operated within previously disturbed areas associated with existing roads and infrastructure and if disturbance outside existing developed areas is anticipated, what measures will be put in place to minimize potential effects on terrain stability, permafrost, surface drainage, and adjacent water resources during construction and operation.

Agnico Eagle's Response to Request:

Per Section 5.1 of the design report, the above ground pipeline will be installed at the toe of the roads in previously disturbed areas, following alignment of the Doris-Windy Lake Road and the Windy Lake Fresh Water Pumping Station Access Road. Disturbance outside of existing developed areas is not anticipated.

Interested Party:	CIRNAC	Rec No.:	CIRNAC-NWB-04
Re:	Construction Quality Control/Quality Assurance Program		

Request Made by Interested Party:

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent provide additional information regarding the QA/QC program that will be implemented for construction of the freshwater intake, pumping station, pipeline, and associated infrastructure, including:

- a) Whether construction will be carried out under an existing approved QA/QC Plan or a project-specific QA/QC program;*
- b) QA/QC measures related to protection of freshwater during construction, including implementation of erosion and sediment control measures, management of construction runoff, and protection of Windy Lake and adjacent water resources; and*
- c) How QA/QC activities will verify that water management and freshwater protection measures are functioning as intended throughout construction.*

The above are to be provided prior to any site work being implemented by the proponent.

Agnico Eagle's Response to Request:

Response to bullet a)

Construction activities would be carried out following task specific QA/QC measures, which may include the following:

- A representative of the design engineer could be on site to monitor construction and ensure the design is adhered to and/or approve field design changes, or to conduct inspection(s) of the project at critical stages or once complete.
- Complete surveys of the area at key stages including:
 - The existing ground where materials are expected to be placed.
 - Each interface / surface of material placement prior to a change in material type.
 - The final as-built condition including earthworks and liner placement.
- A set of construction record drawings shall be produced, accompanied by a summary memorandum.
- As-built reporting will be prepared and submitted to regulatory authorities within 90 days of project completion.

Response to bullet b)

See responses to CIRNAC-NWB-01.

Response to bullet c)

Water management measures (i.e., erosion and sediment control measures) are regularly inspected when required to ensure they are functioning as intended.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA (DFO)

Interested Party:	DFO	Rec No.:	DFO-NWB-01
Re:	Water Withdrawal		

Request Made by Interested Party:

In order to comply with the Fisheries Act, it is recommended that the Proponent follow DFO's protective measures for fish and fish habitat and standard codes of practice which can be found on DFO's website (<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/measures-mesureseng.html> and <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/practice-pratique-eng.html>).

Proponents are also asked to respect the NU in-water works restricted activity timing windows (Projects Near Water - Nunavut Restricted Activity Timing Windows for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat ([dfo-mpo.gc.ca](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)) to protect fish during spawning and incubation periods when spawning fish, eggs and fry are vulnerable to disturbance or sediment.

The proponent should refer to DFO's Interim code of practice: End-of-pipe fish protection screens for small water intakes in freshwater available at <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/standards-normes/fish-screen-grillage-poisson-eng.html> when using fish screens.

For water withdrawal from watercourses, DFO recommends the proponent follow the Framework for Assessing the Ecological Flow Requirements to Support Fisheries In Canada (<https://waves.vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/348881.pdf>) and demonstrates that water withdrawal rate remains <10% of actual (instantaneous) flow and does not result in flows <30% of mean annual discharge (MAD).

In addition, the proponent should follow the DFO Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal in the NWT (2010) and not withdrawal more than 10% of under-ice water volumes (Attachment 1: DFO Winter Water Withdrawal Protocol, 2010).

As stated in the Design Report, the Proponent should complete and submit the request for review (RFR) form available on the website (<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/request-review-demande-d-examen-004-eng.html>). The RFR form can be sent directly to Holly.Simpson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or to DFO.ARCENTriageTriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

It is also the Proponent's Duty to Notify DFO if they have caused, or are about to cause, the death of fish by means other than fishing and/or the harmful alteration, disruption, or the destruction of fish habitat. Such notification should be directed to DFO.ARCENTriageTriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Agnico Eagle's Response to Request:

In line with DFO's recommendation, Agnico Eagle has submitted a Request for Review to DFO for the Windy North Intake.