

C. Portt and Associates, Fisheries Consultants

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November 20, 2017.

Jamie Quesnel
Environmental Supervisor - Nunavut
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Meadowbank Division
Baker Lake, Nunavut, Canada
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Dear Sir:

Re: Additional information regarding determining the presence/absence of fish in Goose Pit

You recently forwarded to us an email dated November 10, 2017, from Ken Olson, Environment Canada, to you requesting additional information regarding the work we conducted to determine if fish are or are not present in Bay Goose Pit at the Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, Meadowbank Division site (Lat. N65.005498°; Long. W096.057549°). Today we participated in a Webex with Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Agnico Eagle Limited staff regarding this matter. This letter is being provided to document the additional information we presented and our contribution to the Webex discussion.

The fishing effort that we expended was provided previously in a letter report to Robin Allard, Agnico Eagle Limited, dated October 5, 2017. As indicated in that letter, fish sampling was limited to gill netting because methods that are typically conducted by wading (i.e. backpack electrofishing, seining) could not be safely undertaken due to the vertical sides or steep, unstable, slopes along the pit margins.

The lengths of the various gill net mesh sizes that were set for 120 consecutive hours, from September 22 – 27, 2017, are provided in Table 1. Photograph 1 shows Bay Goose Pit and the approximate locations of the net sets. Photograph 2, taken during the field investigations, shows the shoreline and the floats of some of the net sets in Bay Goose Pit. The nets were checked daily. No fish were captured.

Table 1. Length of each mesh size of gill net set continuously from September 22 – 27, 2017, in Bay Goose Pit.

Length of net deployed (m) from September 22 - 27, 2017									
	mesh size (mm)								
bar (mm)	6.5	9.5	12.5	16	19	25.5	38	51	63
stretch (mm)	13	19	25	32	38	51	76	102	126
length (m)	12.5	12.5	58.3	58.3	58.3	91.6	91.6	91.6	91.6

During more than forty years of fish sampling conducted by each of us, neither of us can recall setting as much gill net in such a small area for even a short period of time. The intent of setting so much net (566 m) in a small body of water (approximately 4.2 ha) for an extended period of time (5 days) was to

achieve a high likelihood of catching fish, if fish were present. In waters that support one or more populations of fish, again based on our experience, this much gill net could be expected to capture fish within hours. Therefore the fact that no fish were caught when the nets were set for five days gives us a high level of confidence that fish are not present. Our confidence in this conclusion is further increased by the fact that, based on our on-site observations, there is currently no route by which fish from Third Portage Lake or any other fish-bearing waters can gain access to Bay Goose Pit and, based on information provided by Agnico Eagle Limited, this has been the case since the isolating dike was constructed.

In conclusion, it is the professional opinion of each of us that there are no fish present in Bay Goose Pit. This opinion is based on the following facts:

- for a number of years, and until approximately two years ago, Bay Goose Pit was dry;
- Bay Goose Pit is isolated from Third Portage Lake by a dike and there is no apparent route by which fish could colonize Bay Goose Pit from Third Portage Lake or any other fish-bearing waters; and
- no fish were captured by extensively gill netting Bay Goose Pit in September, 2017.

Sincerely,

George A. Coker, Hon. B.Sc. Fisheries
C. Portt and Associates

Cam Portt, Hon. B.Sc. Fisheries, M.Sc.



Photograph 1. Bay Goose Pit showing approximate locations of gill nets set September 22 – 27, 2017, in yellow.



Photograph 2. Photograph taken on September, 26, 2017, showing Bay Goose Pit and floats from some of the gill net sets.