



AGNICO-EAGLE MINES LTD.
Meadowbank Division

November 23, 2007

Mr. Jeff Rusk
PO Box 1360,
Cambridge Bay, NU
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Canada
VIA EMAIL: Jrusk@NIRB.ca

Dear Mr. Rusk:

RE: Meadowbank Project Certificate No. 004 Dated December 30, 2006
Request to Amend NIRB Condition No. 17
Technical Review of All Dikes and Pit Slopes

NIRB condition number 17 under the Meadowbank Project Certificate issued December 30, 2006 states the following:

“Cumberland shall undertake a detailed technical review of all dike and pitwall designs at the final design stage, and submit the final dike designs for water depths of greater than 10 metres for an expert analysis and Cumberland shall include the detailed technical review and the expert analysis in the application to the NWB for a water license”

Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. asked Golder Associates to undertake a detailed technical review of all dike and pitwall designs as required under NIRB condition number 17. AEM also arranged for Dr. Morgenstern at the University of Alberta to conduct an independent technical review of the dike designs. A draft version of Dr. Morgenstern's review report was incorporated into the Meadowbank Type A Water License Application submitted to the NWB in late August. In conducting this review both Dr. Morgenstern and the Golder technical team designing the dikes has suggested that from an engineering perspective they would all prefer a staged approach to the water license permitting for the proposed dikes. To put this in perspective it is key to understand the proposed schedule for construction of the Meadowbank dikes in Third Portage Lake:

- The first dike to be constructed is to be the East Dike currently scheduled to be constructed in the summer of 2008 (dependent upon issue of a Type A Water License). This dike is to be fully constructed in water depths of less than 10 metres (maximum cutoff wall depth of 5.8 m);
- The second dike to be constructed is the Bay Zone Dike which is also scheduled to be constructed in the summer of 2008. This dike was re-aligned by Golder Associates in July of 2007 (SD Document 492 in the Type A WL Application) and is also now to be fully constructed in water depths of less than 10 metres;

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- Both the East and Bay Zone Dikes are required to allow mining of the under lake portions of the Portage Pit. Mining of the Portage Pit starts on land and is scheduled for 2008 with the under lake section scheduled to commence in 2009;
- The third dike to be constructed is the Goose Island Dike which is the only dike that has sections to be constructed in deeper water depths (up to 20.1 metres in depth). This dike is not required at the beginning of the mine life and is scheduled to start construction in 2009 with the main construction and completion occurring in 2010 (again assuming issue of a Type A WL before the summer of 2008). Mining behind this dike is not scheduled until 2011.

By a staged approach Dr. Morgenstern and the Golder design team are referring to a process where the Type A Water License as issued by the NWB would allow for construction of the East and Bay Zone Dikes but would include a condition where the final design for the Goose Island Dike would have to be submitted for final NWB approval during the Water License term. For example the Water License could require that the final design for the Goose Island Dike must be submitted six months prior to the planned start of construction along with the independent detailed technical review for this structure. In this way the final design of the deeper dike sections can draw on lessons learned from construction of the shallower East and Bay Zone Dikes and on additional field information collected on the properties of the materials to be used in this construction, such as the till, i.e., the final design for the deeper water dike sections can be adapted from the lessons learned from constructing the first shallower dikes.

For example the lessons learned from dike construction in 2008 can be incorporated into the final design of the Goose Island Dike and the final design for the Goose Island Dike be submitted for NWB approval in late 2008 so that the NWB and all parties would have 6 months to review and approve the final design before the start of construction in the summer of 2009.

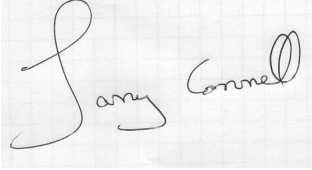
Consequently Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. believes that we are meeting the intent of this condition but not the precise wording. Consequently we are writing to ask the NIRB to amend the wording of condition 17 to allow the NWB to proceed with its acceptance of the Meadowbank Type A Water License application prior to receiving the final design and technical review for the Goose Island Dike. We suggest an amendment of Condition 17 using the following words or something similar to meet this objective:

“Cumberland shall undertake a detailed technical review of all dike and pitwall designs at the final design stage, and submit the final dike designs for water depths of greater than 10 metres for an expert analysis. Cumberland shall include the detailed technical review for the East and Bay Zone Dikes and pitwall designs as part of the application to the NWB for a water license. Cumberland shall submit the detailed final design and the detailed technical review for the Goose Island Dike at least six months prior to the planned start of construction of this dike for NWB approval.”

We request this amendment to allow the NWB to move forward with the technical review of the Meadowbank Water License application in a timely manner and to avoid this one condition from causing the application to be defined as being incomplete.

Please feel free to call on the undersigned for any clarification or additional information that may be helpful in your consideration of our request.

Regards,
Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue grid background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "Larry Connell".

Larry Connell, P. Eng.
Regional Manager of Environment, Social & Government Affairs

cc: A. Hansen – NIRB Monitoring Officer
Kivalliq Inuit Association
Environment Canada
INAC Water Resources Division
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
GN Department of Environment
John Donihee
Louise Grondin