

NIRB File No.: 10XN039 Related NIRB File No.: 03MN107 NWB File No.: 2AM-MEA0815

July 6, 2010

Stéphane Robert Environment Superintendent Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited Meadowbank Division

Via email: <a href="mailto:stephane.robert@agnico-eagle.com">stephane.robert@agnico-eagle.com</a>

Re: Opportunity to address comments received regarding Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Meadowbank Airstrip Expansion" project proposal

Dear Stéphane Robert:

On February 4, 2010 the NIRB received Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM) "Meadowbank Airstrip Expansion" project proposal from AEM. On February 10, 2010 the NIRB issued correspondence which requested that the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) provide a conformity determination for the proposed activity, and agencies responsible for authorizing the project activities advise the NIRB of any such requirements.

On March 2, 2010 the NIRB received notification from the Nunavut Planning Commission that no conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) would be required for the "Meadowbank Airstrip Expansion" project proposal. On April 15, 2010 the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) advised the NIRB that AEM's application to expand the Meadowbank airstrip would require an amendment to the original NWB water license (2AM-MEA0815). Further, on April 18, 2010 Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) advised the NIRB that the proposed expansion of the Meadowbank airstrip would require authorization by DFO.

After undertaking a preliminary completeness check, the NIRB determined that the project proposal as submitted did not contain sufficient information to permit proper screening and requested that additional information be submitted by May 21, 2010. On May 24, 2010 the NIRB received the requested information.

On May 31, 2010 the NIRB invited interested parties and municipalities potentially affected by AEM's project to review this project proposal and provide any comments or concerns directly to the NIRB by June 22, 2010.

On or before June 22, 2010 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

■ Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment

- Environment Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

All comments and documents received pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's ftp site at <a href="ftp://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/10XN039-AEM%20-%20Meadowbank%20Airstrip%20Expansion/1-SCREENING/02-DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS/">ftp://ftp.nirb.ca/SCREENINGS/ACTIVE%20SCREENINGS/10XN039-AEM%20-%20Meadowbank%20Airstrip%20Expansion/1-SCREENING/02-DISTRIBUTION/COMMENTS/</a>.

The following represents a *summary* of the main concerns raised:

- Potential for sedimentation resulting from the in-lake placement of rock
- Concerns regarding the in-lake use of construction materials that may be deleterious
- Potential impacts to water quality and/or aquatic biota
- Previously submitted plans should be updated to include the proposed airstrip expansion and related activities; plans to be revised and submitted for review and approval sufficiently in advance of construction
- Proponent should identify contingency measures especially where elevated sedimentation in water column may occur
- Mitigation measures proposed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement should be implemented
- Proposal as submitted does not provide information regarding proposed reclamation of the deactivated section of the all weather access road
- Mitigative techniques designed to protect water quality and aquatic biota should be described and developed in an Erosion or Sediment Control Plan

The NIRB would like to provide AEM with an opportunity to address all comments received prior to the Board making its recommendation to the Minister. The NIRB recommends that AEM review the complete comment submissions and provide a response directly to our office by **July 20, 2010**. The response should address those items as outlined throughout the comment submissions found at the ftp link above. If AEM determines that additional time is required to prepare an adequate response, the NIRB requests that an alternate date for submission be provided as soon as possible.

Please forward all forthcoming submissions to the NIRB at <u>info@nirb.ca</u> or via fax at (867) 983-2594.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the undersigned at 867-983-4615 or ahanson@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,

Amanda Hanson Technical Advisor

Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Dave Balint, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association

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