



NIRB File No.: 03MN107

AANDC File No.: N2013F0030, 5510-5-3

DFO File No.: NU-03-0191

EC File No.: 4703 001 015 120

NRCan File No.: F74222

NWB File No.: 2BE-MEA1318

June 27, 2014

Ryan Vanengen
Environment Superintendent
Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. – Meadowbank Division
P.O. Box 540
Baker Lake, NU X0B 0C0

Sent via email: ryan.vanengen@agnicoeagle.com

Re: Opportunity to Address Comments Received Regarding Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s "Meadowbank Gold Project 2013 Annual Report"

Dear Ryan Vanengen:

On April 25, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) invited interested parties to review Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s (AEM) *Meadowbank Gold Project 2013 Annual Report*. As required by Section 12.7 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and provisions prescribed in the Project Certificate [No. 004] – Appendix D, the NIRB's monitoring program focuses on compliance and effects monitoring. The NIRB requested that interested parties review the *Meadowbank Gold Project 2013 Annual Report* and provide comments with respect to their jurisdiction and/or area of expertise by June 9, 2014.

On or before June 9, 2014 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- **Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)**
- **Environment Canada (EC)**
- **Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)**
- **Health Canada (HC)**
- **Transport Canada (TC)**
- **Government of Nunavut (GN)**

All comments received and pertaining to this file can be obtained from the NIRB's online public registry at:

The NIRB has completed its review of the comments received and hereby requests that AEM review all submissions and provide the NIRB with a response to the questions or requests for clarification summarized below:

Water Quality

AANDC commented on observed impacts in *Table 12.3 Water Quality* of the *Annual Report* (p. 114), noting observation of poor water quality within the nearshore areas of NP-2, followed by conclusion of no observed impacts; recommend that AEM provide an explanation on this impact prediction.

AANDC commented on the proposed monitoring for tailings contamination of groundwater presented in *Table 12.3 Water Quality* of the *Annual Report* (p. 114); recommend that AEM provide clarification on how current monitoring is sufficient to capture potential contaminants flowing through the underlying talik into the groundwater, where permafrost has not fully developed.

EC commented on parameters included in *Table 4.2 2013 Comparison of predicted pit water quantity to the measured water quantity and quality*; recommend that AEM provide clarification regarding the *Third Portage Pit Sumps Water Quality* sub-table and whether “ammonia” in mg N/L is intended to refer to the NH₃ fraction and the “ammonia nitrogen” in mg N/L is intended to refer to the total ammonia.

EC commented on values contained within *Table 4.2 2013 Comparison of predicted pit water quantity to the measured water quantity and quality* and *Table 8.6 2013 Saddle Dam 1 Water Quality Monitoring (ST-S-2)*; recommend that AEM provide clarification on whether metals are expressed as total or dissolved metals.

EC commented on changes to cyanide concentrations in tailings decreasing as illustrated in *Table 8.10 2013 Tailings Reclaim Pond Water Quality Monitoring (ST-21)*; recommend that AEM provide clarification on why cyanide concentrations in the tailings reclamation pond water decreased by 4 orders of magnitude between June and July.

Fish and Fish Habitat

DFO commented on requirements under the DFO Authorization *NU-03-0190 AWP*; recommend that AEM provide clarification on the absence of photographic records.

DFO commented on the requirement for monitoring of shoal habitat in 2013 within the DFO Authorization *NU-08-0013 Western Channel Crossing*; recommend that AEM provide clarification on the absence of reporting on monitoring of the Western Channel Crossing with regards to habitat compensation.

DFO commented on AEM’s *Habitat Compensation Monitoring Report 2013* as it relates to the DFO Authorization *NU-03-0191.3*; recommend that AEM provide clarification on whether any

construction took place in 2013 to which the mitigation measures apply and on any ongoing basin habitat improvements that have been made.

DFO commented on specific terms and conditions included under Authorization *NU-03-0191.4 Vault Lake*; recommend that AEM provide clarification on whether any activities took place in which mitigation measures at Vault Lake would need to be taken and whether construction of NP-2 Channel and Dogleg North Pond have taken place.

DFO commented on the *Meadowbank Gold Project Habitat Compensation Monitoring Plan*; recommend that AEM provide clarification on the versions referenced.

Wildlife

The GN commented on wildlife mortality, specifically the death of five caribou following a collision with a grader; recommend that AEM provide additional information on new mitigation measures.

The GN commented on increased harvesting along the All Weather Access Road (AWAR); recommend that AEM provide clarification on the extent of the no shooting zone off the AWAR and the suitability of this zone for mitigating impacts on hunting activities centered along the AWAR.

Archaeology

The GN commented on the surveyed areas in *Appendix G19 Report: Archaeological Impact Assessment Agnico Eagle Meadowbank 2013 Exploration Studies*; recommend that AEM provide geo-spatial clarification on the areas surveyed in Areas 1 and 2.

The NIRB would like to provide AEM with an opportunity to address these comments prior to the submission of the *Monitoring Officer Report* and requests that a response be provided directly to the NIRB by **July 28, 2014**. If it is unrealistic for AEM to provide a response by this date, please indicate by July 28, 2014 when the NIRB can expect a response submission. Please send your comments to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca or via fax at **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4606 or hbrasmussen@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Heather Rasmussen
Technical Advisor, Monitoring Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Stéphane Robert, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
Tracey McCaie, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Georgina Williston, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

John Clarke, Natural Resources Canada
Paula Smith, Environment Canada
Meighan Andrews, Transport Canada
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
Tineka Simmon, Northern Project Management Office
Agnes Simonfalvy, Government of Nunavut