



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

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Our File: / CIDMS

9545-2-2MEAG
203858

March 31, 2008

Phyllis Beaulieu
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Dear Ms Beaulieu:

**Refer: 2AM-MEA Meadowbank Gold Project Type A Water License Application /
Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. / Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Intervention
to April 15-17, 2008 Final Hearing**

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada thanks the Nunavut Water Board for the opportunity to review the Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.(AEM) Type A water licence application for its Meadowbank Gold Project. The Department has attached to this letter a written intervention for the public hearings scheduled for Baker Lake, Nunavut from April 15 to 17, 2008.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's role in the review of the AEM Meadowbank Gold Project Type A water licence application is to offer advice and insight relating to our department's responsibilities under the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and the *Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Act*.

Overall, the department has few concerns with water licence application by AEM although some items require resolution. Specifically, we are providing for the Board's consideration, recommendations relating to surface and permafrost disturbance, water quality and quantity assessment, waste management, monitoring and abandonment and reclamation. Each is discussed in more detail in our written intervention. Additional concerns are over the designs of the deep water dikes and the thermal covers for the waste rock pile and tailings, which will be provided later in the project. These project aspects will have the advantage of time to establish and verify trends in critical parameters in the design process. Should problems arise, the Board should be aware and be informed of changes and reasons for the changes proposed by the proponent.

Please note that Indian and Northern Affairs Canada reserves the right to offer further recommendations regarding any material omitted in the license application or which may have been overlooked during our review. We recognize that these issues may arise at the final hearing and the department's insight may be of value. Our written intervention is based on information provided by the AEM and the Nunavut Water Board up to March 20, 2008. Information provided after this date will be addressed at the Final Hearing if it affects areas of concern for the Department.

The department would like to recognize the efforts made by AEM's team to manage and share information and discuss technical issues at the water license technical meetings held in Baker Lake on February 12-13, 2008, and meetings held on specific issues since then. Their commitment to transparency and openness has made the work of reviewing the AEM application much easier.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada appreciates the opportunity to participate in the Nunavut Water Board Type A water licencing process and will continue to support the proponent, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd., the Nunavut Water Board, the Kivilliq Inuit Association, Hamlet of Baker Lake, the Government of Nunavut, our federal partners and other relevant stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Michael Nadler

Michael Nadler
Regional Director General