



Executive Summary

Final Written Submission
Amendment Application #2

Water Licence #2AM-MEA0815
Meadowbank Gold Mine
Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
Kivalliq Region

December 20, 2013

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (the Department) is an interested party in the Nunavut Water Board's review of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (Agnico Eagle) application to amend the Meadowbank Gold Mine's Type 'A' Water Licence for increased freshwater consumption. Pursuant to federal legislation, the Department is tasked with co-managing Nunavut's freshwater resources with the Nunavut Water Board.

After careful review, the Department supports the amendment application. Agnico Eagle has adequately demonstrated that Third Portage Lake's water levels (the affected water source) should not be significantly impacted by freshwater consumption and that the tailings storage facility can accommodate mill process and treated domestic wastewater effluent. Agnico Eagle has committed to regularly monitor Third Portage Lake's water levels to ensure that the local aquatic ecosystem will not be significantly impacted by project activities. It is noted that the volume of freshwater consumed to support project activities has exceeded licence limits, despite reduction efforts, since mining operations began in 2010. If the amendment application is approved Agnico Eagle will be brought into compliance with licence terms and conditions.

As a result of the October 16-17, 2013 Nunavut Water Board Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference (held in Baker Lake, NU) and the Agnico Eagle November 8, 2013 water licence monitoring program workshop (held via teleconference), the recommendations raised in the Department's September 26, 2013 Technical Review Memorandum have been adequately addressed. The recommendations do not apply to the scope of the application and will be attend to in the upcoming licence renewal application. They concern the provision of monitoring information and the need for licence terms and conditions to reference updated management plans.

Agnico Eagle should provide the criteria that would be used to increase the frequency of monitoring Third Portage Lake's water levels (from monthly to weekly) and review the lake's water balance should water levels diminish. These activities would assist in determining whether freshwater consumption is impacting Third Portage Lake's aquatic ecosystem. This issue was raised by the Nunavut Water Board during the Technical Meeting and should be addressed. Once confirmed, the criteria should be referenced in applicable monitoring and management plans.