



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

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October 19, 2007

Our file Notre référence
NU-03-0109

Meadowbank Mining Corporation
Larry Connell
Regional Manager Environment, Social and Governmental Affairs
Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited
555 Burrard Street, suite 375
Two Bentall Centre
Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1M8

Dear Mr. Connell:

Subject: Fish Habitat Compensation Detailed Design for the All-Weather Private
Access Road (AWPAR), Meadowbank Gold Project

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) received the detailed design report on September 18, 2007, concerning the fish habitat compensation located at R02 for the All Weather Private Access Road (AWPAR) connecting the Hamlet of Baker Lake to the Meadowbank mine property.

DFO has reviewed the report entitled “*R02 Fisheries Compensation Design*” for the AWPAR. It is noted that the fish habitat compensation design targets Arctic grayling for their spawning, rearing and foraging life stages. According to the report, compensation area B (COB) is the preferred site as it demonstrates existing low to moderate habitat compared to the other two alternatives. At this site, the proposed compensation structures consist of four berms and a maximum of 41 spawning pads. DFO provides the following comments.

In figure 5, the typical berm cross-section indicates a maximum height of 1 metre. As the berms extend into the watercourse, any material located above the ordinary high water mark elevation will result in infilling which may be considered a harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of fish habitat. Since these works are proposed as compensation, DFO requests that the berms be altered to resemble riffle structures with side slopes of approximately 4H:1V on the upstream side and approximately 20H:1V on the downstream side, and lowered to just below the ordinary high water mark elevation. Changes to the design should also take into consideration the required hydraulic values for spawning Arctic grayling.

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Berm and spawning pad material should not be taken from below the ordinary high water mark or shoreline of any waterbody except for natural material salvaged from within the footprint of the compensation site.

Angular aggregate (rip-rap or blast rock) is not suitable as spawning substrate for this site. Over time angular aggregate will settle into a tightly interlocking arrangement with fewer and smaller interstitial spaces which restrict water circulation within the substrate and become more prone to clogging with fine particulate matter. Clear interstitial spaces, through several layers of aggregate, are required for retention, protection, oxygenation and removal of waste products of incubating fish eggs and newly emergent fry. Therefore DFO requests that only clean, naturally smooth rounded aggregate material, free of fine particulate matter, non-acid generating and non-metal leaching, be used for the creation of spawning habitat. In figure 5, please indicate the gravel and cobble type and size to be used in the proposed spawning pad.

If you have any questions concerning the above, please contact myself directly at our Iqaluit office by telephone at (867) 979-8007, by fax at (867) 979-8039, or by e-mail at Liua@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by:

Amy Liu
Senior Habitat Biologist

Copy: Stéphane Robert, Agnico – Eagle Mines Limited
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Gary Mann, Azimuth Consulting Group
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