

Appendix B3

Letter: *NWB Notice of Modification Airstrip Expansion*



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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYIT
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

File No.: **2AM-MEA0815**

April 4, 2013

Stéphane Robert
Manager Regulatory Affairs Nunavut
Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited – Meadowbank Division
10200, Route de Preissac,
Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec J0Y 1C0
Email: stephane.robert@agnico-eagle.com

Subject: Licence No. 2AM-MEA0815 – Notice of Modification: Airstrip Expansion

Dear Mr. Robert,

On January 27, 2013 the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) received a Notice from Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. (AEM) regarding the expansion of the airstrip, including the following documents:

- Cover letter dated January 27, 2013;
- Airstrip Expansion – NWB; Modification Application, Main Document;
- Appendix A - Nunavut Planning Commission Conformity determination;
- Appendix B - NIRB Screening Decision Report 10XN039;
- Appendix C - DFO Letter of Advice dated Sept. 26, 2012;
- Appendix D – NWB Notification of Modification;
- Appendix E – Airstrip drawing;
- Appendix F - Azimuth Technical Memo TSS-turbidity relationship Feb 2010 v3;
- Appendix G – Emergency Response Plan Version 4, July 2012;
- Appendix H – Spill Contingency Plan Version 3, July 2012

This request was previously made on February 4, 2010 and a letter was subsequently issued by NWB on April 15, 2010 with respect to a determination made by the Board, stating that a licence amendment application would be necessary for the proposed activity.

The recently submitted request indicates that the project was refined and optimized to limit the length of the airstrip extension in Third Portage Lake to a strict minimum substantially reducing the potential impact to Third Portage Lake. AEM has reviewed their airstrip expansion design with the aim of reducing cost and limiting the length that would extend into Third Portage Lake and is proposing a 255m extension capable of accommodating a Boeing 737 jet, but with a

limited encroachment of 18m into Third Portage Lake compared to the 600m expansion proposed in February, 2010, to be constructed during the winter season.

A previous Screening Decision on the proposed activity, from the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) dated September 15, 2010, and previous Conformity Determination provided by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) on March 2, 2010 have been included with the request. Also included is the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Letter of Advice dated September 26, 2012 stating that:

Provided that the mitigation measures described above are incorporated into AEM plans, DFO has concluded that AEM proposal is not likely to result in impacts to fish and fish habitat and you will not need to obtain a formal approval from DFO in order to proceed with the proposal.

The AEM request letter states that Part D, Items 11 to 15 will apply during the construction of the airstrip extension and that the Water Quality Monitoring and Management Plan for in-lake dike construction, previously approved by the NWB, will be followed to minimize the impact on the lake. Water run-off from the extended portion of the airstrip will be diverted to the Attenuation Pond as part of the Meadowbank Water Management Plan.

On February 15, 2013 the NWB distributed AEM's submission to interested parties for a fifteen (15) day review. The NWB received comments from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada¹ (AANDC) stating that:

Provided that AEM follow the construction and monitoring programs presented in the submitted proposal AANDC does not have any issue with this modification request. Limiting construction activities to the winter season during freeze thru conditions, applying lessons learned from the construction of the East and Bay Goose Dikes, and recognizing the established Core Receiving Environment Monitoring Plan provide confidence in AEM's ability to limit any effects to the water quality and biological productivity of Third Portage Lake.

The NWB hereby accepts the notice of Modification and approves (Motion No. 2012-B1-019) the proposed modification as presented in the January 27, 2013 notice and advises AEM to implement the updated Emergency Response and Spill Contingency Plans and in particular, adhere to sections 2 and 3 of the Airstrip Expansion – NWB Modification Application, Water Quality Monitoring and Management of Airstrip Expansion. The NWB would also like to highlight Licence conditions and requirements that apply to the construction in addition to Part D, Items 11 to 15, which include:

- Part D, Item 8 -The Licensee shall use fill material for construction from an approved source, which has been demonstrated not to produce Acid Rock Drainage and to be non-Metal Leaching.

¹ Letter and Technical Review Memo from D. Abernethy AANDC, to P. Beaulieu NWB. Re: Licence No. 2AM-MEA0815 – Meadowbank Gold Project – Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. – Modification Request for Airstrip Expansion – Kivalliq Region, dated March 4, 2013.

- Part D, Item 22 - The Licensee shall implement sediment and erosion control measures prior to and during Construction, and Operations where necessary, to prevent entry of sediment into Water.
- Part D, Item 23 - The Licensee shall inspect daily, all construction activities for signs of erosion.
- Part D, Item 24 - All surface runoff during the construction of any facilities, where flow may directly or indirectly enter a Water body, shall be sampled Weekly and not exceed the following Effluent quality limits:

Parameter	Maximum Average Concentration (mg/L)	Maximum Concentration of Any Grab Sample (mg/L)
Total Suspended Solids	50.0	100.0

- Part D, Item 25 - The construction of engineered earthworks shall be supervised and field checked by a qualified Engineer. Construction records shall be maintained and available at the request of the Board.
- Part G, Item 4 – The Licensee shall provide as-built plans and drawings of the Modifications referred to in this Licence within ninety (90) days of completion of the Modification. These plans and drawings shall be stamped by an Engineer.

The design, location and construction as provided for in the notification documents (and engineering drawings) submitted January 27, 2013 are acknowledged through this letter as superseding the previously submitted notice and design of February 2010.

Should you have any questions or require any clarification with respect to the above, please feel free to contact the undersigned via email at dts@nunavutwaterboard.org or phone (780) 443-4406.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

David Hohnstein, C.E.T.
Director of Technical Services

DH/kk

Attachment: Comments AANDC

Cc: Distribution list - Kivalliq