

Appendix G11

Letter: *AEM response for MMER Samples For Vault Dewatering*

January 1, 2014

Dovreshin MacRae
Enforcement Officer
Northern District (NT & NU)
Prairie and Northern Region
Environmental Enforcement Directorate
Enforcement Branch
Environment Canada
Nova Plaza - 5019 - 52 St
PO Box 2310 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7
dovreshin.macrae@ec.gc.ca
Telephone 867-669-4785
Cell 867-445-6719
Facsimile 867-669-6831

RE: Environment Canada questions regarding MMER Samples For Vault Dewatering, August 2013

Mr. McRae,

In August, four (4) samples (August 6, 12, 20 and 27) were planned for the MMER monitoring of Vault discharge. No samples were collected during the first week of August (August 6th) following an oversight from the technicians. This omission is due to the confusion surrounding the Vault dewatering daily sampling schedule for which AEM was required to take, according to the NWB Water License 2AM - MEA0815, daily turbidity and TSS sample. The August 6th TSS result was 1mg/L. This result comes from the Meadowbank on-site laboratory and as the laboratory is not accredited, the data was not submitted to Environment Canada via the RISS Website. During the 2nd week of August, the sample was taken (August 12th) in the receiving environment, Wally Lake which was an error. As soon as AEM became aware of these errors during the 1st and 2nd week, sampling was planned and done on August 17th. After this date, 3 more sampling events were completed on August 20th, 23rd and 27th. Two samples were taken in the 3rd week of August to get at least 4 samples during the month. According to the MMER regulation Section 12 (1), we only have the 1st week of August (4th to 10th) where we are not compliant with the MMER regulation as we didn't have any result:

"Subject to subsection (3), the owner or operator of a mine shall, not less than once per week and at least 24 hours apart, collect from each final discharge point a grab sample or composite sample of effluent and, without delay, record the pH and concentration of the deleterious substances set out in column 1 of Schedule 4".

In addition, the sampling results show no exceedance to the authorized limits of deleterious substances of Schedule 4. Taking into account the fact that Vault Lake dewatering effluent water was non-contact water with any mining activity, and the results of all 2013 were well below the limits in Schedule 4, MMER it

Regional Office:
93, Rue Arseneault
Bureau 202
Val d'Or, Quebec J9P 0E9
Tel: 819-825-3744

Baker Lake Office:
P.O. Box 540
Baker Lake, Nunavut X0C 0A0
Tel: 867-793-4610 Fax: 867-793-4611

would be safe to assume that the discharge between Aug 4 – 10 would not exceed the authorized limit. AEM has discussed this issue with our technicians and developed a clear sampling calendar to ensure that this kind of mistake does not happen.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at jeffrey.pratt@agnico-eagle.com.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey Pratt
Environmental Coordinator
Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
Meadowbank Division
(867) 793-4610 ext. 6728
jeffrey.pratt@agnico-eagle.com

CC: Kevin Buck – AEM
Stephane Robert – AEM
Marie-Pier Marcil – AEM