



Fisheries and Oceans Pêches et Océans
Canada Canada

501 University Crescent
Winnipeg, MB
R3T 2N6

May 13, 2016

Our file Notre référence
03-HCAA-CA7-00191 &
03-HCAA-CA7-00190

Nunavut Impact Review Board
c/o Sophia Granchinho
Manager, Impact Assessment
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
c/o Stephane Robert
10200 Route de Preissac
Rouyn-Noranda, QC J0Y 1C0

Dear Ms. Granchinho and Mr. Robert:

Subject: Comment Request for Agnico Eagle Mines (AEM) Ltd.'s Meadowbank Project 2015 Annual Report

The Fisheries Protection Program (the Program) of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the opportunity to provide comments on the 2015 Annual Report pursuant to the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project.

DFO understands that the NIRB is requesting parties provide comments on the following:

1. a) Whether the conclusions reached by AEM in the 2015 Annual Report are valid

AEM's Habitat Compensation Monitoring Report p.3 Section 1.3.1 AWAR Monitoring Objectives states "Additional conditions pertaining to monitoring of HADD sites were no longer required as per the HCMP (that was designed in consultation with DFO) and as part of the DFO authorization amendment process."

DFO did not amend conditions 4.3, 5.2.2 or 5.3 which all pertain to the monitoring of HADD sites.

- b) Any areas of significance requiring further studies

AEM's Annual Report, p.29 states "treatment may be required for copper, silver, selenium and total nitrogen as the pit water quality may exceed CCME limits."



DFO requests AEM provide an estimate of the approximate time frame by which such treatment would achieve water quality within CCME guidance and suitable for the introduction of fish. Any updates to the schedule of the Habitat Compensation Monitoring Plan should be reflective of this time frame.

c) changes to the monitoring program which may be required

DFO is currently reviewing AEM's recently submitted updated Habitat Compensation Monitoring Plan and will be providing comments shortly.

2.a)i) How the authorizing agency has incorporated the terms and conditions from the Project Certificate into their permits, certificates, licences or other government approvals, where applicable

In response to AEM's 2013 Annual Report, DFO provided the NIRB with copies of *Fisheries Act* Authorizations issued for the Meadowbank Project. No new Authorizations have been issued since.

ii) a summary of any inspections conducted during the 2015 reporting period, and the results of these inspections

DFO has no site inspection reports to submit regarding Meadowbank Mine for 2015.

iii) a summary of AEM's compliance status with regard to authorizations that have been issued for the Project

Regarding *Fisheries Act* Authorization NU-03-0190 condition 5.3, DFO was unable to locate a photographic record.

Regarding *Fisheries Act* Authorization NU-08-0013, DFO was unable to locate any mention of monitoring the Western Channel or construction of the proposed habitat shoal.

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Patreau at (204)983-2361, or by email at Elizabeth.Patreau@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Please refer to the file number referenced above when corresponding with the Program.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Thomas

A/Manager, Regulatory Reviews