

Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Prairie & Northern Region
5019 52nd Street, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 2310
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7

ECCC File: 6100 000 008/002-014
NWB File: 2AM-MEA1530 / 2AM-WTP1830



July 5, 2023

via email at: licensing@nwb-oen.ca

Richard Dwyer
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Dear Richard Dwyer:

RE: 2AM-MEA1530 – 2AM-WTP1830 – Agnico Eagle Mines (AEM) – Meadowbank Mine and Whale Tail Pit – 2022 Annual Report

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has reviewed the information submitted to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) regarding the above-mentioned annual report.

ECCC provides expert information and knowledge to project assessments on subjects within the department's mandate, including climate change, air quality, water quality, biodiversity, environmental preparedness and emergencies. This work includes reviewing proponent characterization of environmental effects and mitigation measures, and providing advice to decision makers on activities needed to mitigate these environmental effects. Any comments received from ECCC in this context does not relieve the proponent of its obligations to respect all applicable federal legislation.

The following comments are provided:

1. Weather Data

Reference(s)

- Appendix 50 Meadowbank and Whale Tail 2022 Air Quality and Dust Monitoring Reports, Section 2.4 Weather Data and Appendix A

Comment

Section 2.4 Weather Data mentions the availability in Appendix A of daily averages for wind speed, wind direction and temperature from the Meadowbank and Whale Tail permanent climate station. This section also refers to a wind sensor installed at the DF-7 monitoring site to measure hourly average wind speed and direction. ECCC agrees that wind monitoring can be used to help identify sources of pollutants as needed, based on wind direction. Accurate wind measurements may also



assist with diagnosis of fugitive dust events. However, there are multiple issues with the climate station data as presented in Appendix A. For example, the temperature sensor appears to be locked at or near -49.5C for several days in early April, and average temperatures mostly exceed +50C from June 21st through July 2nd. The wind sensor malfunctioned from April 28th through May 5th.

ECCC Recommendation(s)

ECCC requests that AEM perform a first order quality control of the weather data from the climate station, with an emphasis on wind speed and direction; the primary comparison of wind data would be with the sensor at DF-7 with the Baker Lake NAVCAN Station as a secondary station. Erroneous data should be subsequently flagged.

If you need more information, please contact Victoria Shore at Victoria.Shore@ec.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

[original signed by]

Victoria Shore
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer

cc: Eva Walker, Acting Head, Environmental Assessment North (NT and NU)