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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

File: 2AM-MEA1530

March 25, 2025

Jamie Quesnel
Director, Permitting and Regulatory Affairs
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Toronto, ON M5C 2Y7

Colleen Prather
Permitting and Regulatory Affairs Superintendent
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
11600, rue Louis-Bisson
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E-mail: colleen.prather@agnicoeagle.com

RE: Water Licence No: 2AM-MEA1530; Meadowbank Mine Vault Distribution Line

Dear Jamie Quesnel and Colleen Prather:

On December 20, 2024, the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) received a construction list of activities from Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle or Licensee) that included construction of Meadowbank Mine Vault Distribution Line for the Water Licence 2AM-MEA1530 (Licence) issued for the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project (Project).

The NWB understands that there were email exchanges between Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) and Agnico Eagle, and subsequently a teleconference was arranged by Agnico Eagle with CIRNA and NWB. The purpose of this teleconference was to address questions from CIRNA regarding why an NWB approval is not required and that whether the proposed activity has received a full regulatory review.

During the teleconference on February 20, 2025, Agnico Eagle noted that the proposed activity is an operations matter, and while water is moved within the mine footprint it is not being discharged to the environment. Agnico Eagle also noted that since the proposed operational activity is within their approved project footprint, an assessment from NIRB was not required.

As a follow-up to the teleconference discussion, on February 26, 2025, Agnico Eagle submitted additional information, including the "Table 1: Agnico Eagle NuPPAA Section 90 Self-Assessment". Agnico Eagle noted that *based on the outcome of NuPPAA s.90 factors self-assessment presented in Table 1, Agnico Eagle considers that the nature, magnitude, complexity, probability, frequency, and duration of the impacts for the Vault distribution line are low to negligible changes as compared to the approved activities. Agnico Eagle further acknowledged that the updated Water Management Plan will have to be submitted to NWB as per Part B, Item 16 of the Water Licence.*

On March 3, 2025, CIRNA raised their concerns again and suggested that the proposed water transfer to the Vault pit is part of Agnico Eagle's closure strategy, and not a routine operation, and hence this should be assessed as part of the overall closure plan. CIRNA further suggested that approving the construction

and subsequent operation of the new pipeline should be considered at the time the entire closure plan is finalized, assessed and approved. On March 5, 2025, Agnico Eagle responded by email stating that *this line is needed for and will be used in Operations and into Closure*.

In the meantime, the NWB shared the Agnico Eagle's submission including the "Table 1: Agnico Eagle NuPPAA Section 90 Self-Assessment" with the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) to determine significance for an amendment or modification to the project, requesting for a confirmation on whether NIRB agrees with Agnico Eagle's assessment. On March 21, 2025, NIRB confirmed by email that the proposed activity appears to be *within the non-significant amendment: NIRB assessment not required category*.

Copies of all documents received in support of the Notice and comments provided can be accessed through the NWB's Public Registry site using the following link:

<https://public.nwb-oen.ca/registry/2%20MINING%20MILLING/2A/2AM%20-%20Mining/2AM-MEA1530%20Agnico/3%20TECH/D%20CONSTRUCTION/2025/>

Upon review of all information submitted, and acknowledging that an impact assessment of the proposed activity by NIRB is not required, the NWB confirms that the proposed activity is not in conflict with the existing terms and conditions of the Licence. The NWB also recognizes that while the Final Closure and Reclamation Plan for Meadowbank Gold Mine is not still submitted, some of mine facilities and infrastructures may be going through progressive reclamation. The NWB looks forward to receiving the updated Water Management Plan as per Part B, Item 16 of the Water Licence 2AM-MEA1530.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please contact the NWB Licensing Department by email to licensing@nwb-oen.ca or by phone at (867) 360-6338.

Sincerely,



Abid Jan
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Water Board

Cc: Distribution List – Meadowbank