

February 4, 2010

Via Email – sautut@nirb.ca

Stephanie Autut
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0
Phone: (867) 983-4600

Dear Ms. Autut,

Re: File No. 03MN107 Meadowbank Project Certificate No.004 – Proposed Expansion of Meadowbank Airstrip

Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited – Meadowbank Division (AEM) is proposing to expand the Meadowbank airstrip by increasing the length and width of the airstrip to accommodate a Boeing 737 jet. AEM is requesting that the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) conduct a screening of the project proposal to determine whether or not an amendment to Project Certificate No.004 may be required. AEM is also seeking approval of the proposal from the Kivalliq Inuit Association, Nunavut Planning Commission, Nunavut Water Board (NWB) and Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

Construction of the airstrip expansion is proposed for the third quarter of 2010. More details on the proposed work are included in the attached project proposal.

In the NIRB Meadowbank Project environmental assessment process, an airstrip of 5400 feet was assessed and included in the Project Certificate issued by the NIRB. In AEM's opinion the proposed airstrip expansion to 6900 feet will result in the following environmental impacts in addition to those already presented during the NIRB environmental assessment process and the NWB Class A water licensing process:

1. Loss of additional fish habitat in Third Portage Lake under the immediate footprint of the extended airstrip. This additional habitat loss will be addressed by AEM in consultation with DFO to determine suitable construction methods and compensation measures under a HADD authorization. Fisheries baseline data collection in this area of Third Portage Lake has been ongoing;

2. Potential for temporary impact on water quality during construction with the placement of rock material into Third Portage Lake; the construction technique for the airstrip platform will be identical to the construction technique already used in the construction of the East and Bay-Goose Dikes rock platform. Mitigation measures to minimize impacts of this type of construction have already been established.

AEM does not believe that there will be any additional impact to water resulting from the airstrip expansion after the construction has been completed. The management of these potential additional water quality impacts will be mitigated and managed by AEM using the terms and conditions as set out in the existing Meadowbank Type A Water License 2AM-MEA0815 - Part D, Items 11 to 15 which would apply during the proposed construction of the airstrip extension. The existing water and quality management plan developed by AEM and approved by the NWB for in-lake dike construction will be revised to include a TSS management plan for this airstrip expansion construction activity. This revised management plan will be submitted and sent for review and approval by the NWB and other regulatory agencies.

During the post construction period precipitation run-off from the extended portion of the airstrip will be diverted to the Attenuation Pond as part of the Meadowbank Water Management Plan. There will be no increase in water consumption or waste water generation associated with this extended airstrip.

AEM does not believe there will be any additional impact to wildlife beyond the impacts already established for the existing airstrip. The Air Traffic Management Plan and the Noise Abatement Plan currently in effect for the Project will also apply to the expanded area of the airstrip.

AEM believes that the emergency response procedures that are already in place will be adequate to address all potential accidents and/or malfunctions associated with the use of larger aircraft.

AEM believes that the current monitoring and reporting requirements as laid out in the KIA Production Lease, in the NWB Type A Water License Part D, Items 11 to 15, in the NIRB Project Certificate and the additional measures to be outlined by DFO will be adequate to ensure that all potential environmental impacts are mitigated and reported in a manner accessible to the public.

It is AEM's opinion that while the proposed airstrip expansion represents a change from the Meadowbank Project as reviewed during the NIRB and the NWB processes, it will not change the environmental impact of the Project in any significant manner. Apart from the increased fish habitat loss that will be addressed in consultation with DFO, all other impacts will be mitigated by operational procedures that are already in place.

Should you have any questions or require more information please contact me directly at stephane.robert@agnico-eagle.com.

Regards,
Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited – Meadowbank Division



Stéphane Robert
Environment Superintendent

Encl (1)

cc: *Brian Aglukark, Nunavut Planning Commission*
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Dave Balint, Department of Fisheries and Oceans