



Environment Canada
Environnement Canada

Environmental Protection Operations
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Our File: 4703 001 015

Dec. 30, 2008

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

By email

Re: Agnico-Eagle Meadowbank (AEM) – 2AM-MEA0815 – Sewage Treatment Plant - Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Manual

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC) I have reviewed the plan submitted in fulfillment of condition D.19 of the above-noted water licence (with updates to follow in accordance with Part B.20), and offer the following comments for your consideration.

The O&M Plan is comprised of the two manufacturers' manuals appended to the site manual, which summarizes the treatment plant procedures. In general, the plan provides the needed information in a standalone document which meets the prescribed requirements. My comments on the document are more of an editorial nature; overall EC is satisfied with the Manual as submitted. The following minor points of clarification are provided for your consideration:

Section 2.1 – page 3

- ammonium is NH_4^+ ;
- the description of secondary treatment should mention reduction of BOD in addition to TSS;
- the description of tertiary treatment would be more complete with the mention of nutrient removal and potentially disinfection as elements usually included in the treatment process, in addition to the removal of the fine suspended particles.
- clarify that the organic compounds are responsible for cBOD, rather than cBOD being a compound (last paragraph page 5, sixth sentence).

Section 3 describes procedures to optimize plant operation, including prohibitions on grease and antibacterial soaps which could upset the RBC's biological activity. Has consideration been given to use of phosphate-free soaps?

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 867-669-4735 or by email at anne.wilson@ec.gc.ca with any questions or comments regarding the foregoing.

Sincerely,

Anne Wilson
Water Pollution Specialist
Environmental Assessment - North

cc. Mike Fournier (Coordinator, EA-North, Yellowknife)
Carey Ogilvie (Head, EA-North, Yellowknife)