

## AGNICO-EAGLE MEADOWBANK

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

Reference: Meadowbank Gold Project Type A Water License 2AM-MEA0815

Bay - Goose Island Dike and South Camp Dike Detailed Design

Report

Please find enclosed the detailed design report and drawings for the Meadowbank South Camp and Bay-Goose Dewatering Dikes, submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of Water License 2AM-MEA0815, specifically Part D, Item 2.

The original dewatering concept called for construction of two separate dewatering dikes, one to enclose the Bay Zone component of the Portage Pit and a second to enclose the Goose Island Pit. This concept has been changed to now enclose the entire Goose Island and Bay Zone section of the Portage Pit within one single dewatering dike, now referred to as the Bay-Goose Dike.

In addition, there is a shallow dike called South Camp Dike. This is a relatively small dike that was already required in the original design to cut of a narrow channel in Third Portage Lake between the South Camp Island and the mainland peninsula upon which the Meadowbank mine facilities are located (mill, camp, shops, airstrip, etc).

AEM has modified the configuration of the open pit design for the Goose Island Pit that allows the dewatering dike to be built in shallower water; while still maintaining the minimum setback distance of 70 m between the pit rim and the dike toe. The area to be dewatered is slightly reduced compared to the arrangement presented during the environmental assessment and water licensing process. The revised pit is shallower (125 m vs 165 m deep). This has the benefit of reducing the length of the dewatering dike that will be constructed in deeper water. Under this revision the maximum depth of water beneath the new centerline of the Bay-Goose Dewatering Dike is now 9 m.

This report provides the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) with the detailed engineering design for the South Camp and Bay-Goose Dewatering Dikes. AEM intends to construct the South Camp Dike first in April-May 2009 to cut off flow into the basin to assist in turbidity control. The Bay-Goose Dewatering Dike will be constructed over two years (2009 and 2010). Goose Island is a natural island approximately at the halfway mark. The first stretch to the Island will be built during the 2009 season, and the second part the following summer.

The design for these dewatering dikes was presented to the Independent Geotechnical Expert Review Panel (the Panel) in early January 2009 and the attached design report incorporates the recommendations made by the Panel. A copy of the report from the Panel will be submitted under separate cover within the coming weeks.

The Bay-Goose dewatering dike design was not presented in detail as part of the original water license application. Consequently under Part D, Item 2 of Type A Water License 2AM-MEA0815, the final detailed design would require 6 months advance submission to the NWB for review and approval prior to the start of construction. AEM would like to start construction of the Bay-Goose dewatering dike as soon as the ice comes off Third Portage Lake in 2009, assumed to be mid July 2009. AEM asks the NWB if this required 6 month review period could be reduced to four months to allow our construction schedule to be met.

Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned directly at 819-759-3700 ext.814 or via email at stephane.robert@agnico-eagle.com.

Regards,

**Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited – Meadowbank Division** 

Stéphane Robert

**Environment Superintendent** 

cc: Kevin Buck, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Stephen Hartman, Kivallig Inuit Association