Our reference
IQALUIT-#686393

Your reference
2AM-MEA0813/TR/D2

May 29, 2013

Phyllis Beaulieu
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
Gjoa Haven, NU X0E 1J0

Re: Water Licence #2AM-MEA0815 – Meadowbank Gold Project – Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. – Kivalliq Region – Submission of Vault Dike Final Design

Dear Ms. Beaulieu,

Thank you for your email of April 29, 2013 concerning the above mentioned submission.

A memorandum is provided for the Board's consideration. Comments have been provided pursuant to the Department's mandated responsibilities under the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and the *Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Act.*

Should you have any questions or require more information, please contact me by email at david.abernethy@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca or by telephone at 867-975-4555.

Yours very truly,

David Abernethy
Regional Coordinator
Water Resources Division
Resource Management Directorate
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Encl.

c.c.:   Ian Parsons, A/Manager of Water Resources, AANDC, Iqaluit, NU
        Murray Ball, Manager of Water Resources, AANDC, Iqaluit, NU

Canada

Memorandum

TO   Phyllis Beaulieu
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board

OUR REFERENCE
IQALUIT-#686393

YOUR REFERENCE
2BE-MEA0813/TR/D2

FROM   David Abernethy
Water Resources Regional Coordinator
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern
Development Canada

DATE
May 29, 2013

SUBJECT   **Water Licence #2AM-MEA0815 – Meadowbank Gold Project – Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. – Kivalliq Region – Submission of Vault Dike Final Design**

A. BACKGROUND

On April 29, 2013 the Nunavut Water Board (the "NWB" or "Board") provided notification that Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. (the "Proponent") submitted, via email, the Vault Dike's final design report[1] and detailed assessment report[2] pursuant to Part D, Item 2 of Water Licence.

This licence condition states:

> The Licensee shall submit to the Board for approval, at least six months prior to Construction of the Saddle Dams, Goose Island Dewatering Dike, and Vault Dewatering Dike, the final design and construction drawings accompanied by a detailed assessment report from the Independent Geotechnical Expert Review Panel.

Interested parties were requested to review the additional information and provide comments May 29, 2013.

B. RESULTS OF REVIEW

On behalf of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada I have reviewed the Vault Dike's final design report and detailed assessment report. Please note that these submissions were not reviewed by a professional engineer.

---

[1] SNC-Lavalin Inc. *Final Design Report - Detailed Engineering of Vault Dike.* Prepared for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd., Meadowbank Division. Project file: 610548-2020-4GER-0001. January 14, 2013.

[2] Meadowbank Dike Review Panel. *Report No. 1.* Prepared for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd., Meadowbank Division. December 19, 2012.

In general, the department is satisfied with the submitted documentation and the Proponent's preparation for the Vault Dike's construction.

The Proponent should provide a memo that outlines how recommendations included in the detailed assessment report have been addressed. Examples include:

- Section 3.5 (Dike cross-section) of the submitted report recommends that, "additional thermistors be installed in advance of construction to assist the decision making process for the required depth of excavation and to corroborate the simulation of the ground temperature regime."

- Section 3.5 (Dike cross-section) of the submitted report states, "the pump well shown on the drawing may not be the most appropriate means to control seepage. It is inevitable that the bottom of the dike will become saturated and freezing may be inhibited if warmer water is drawn into the base of the fill by the pump. It is suggested that seepage be controlled at the downstream toe as a first measure with bedrock grouting as a contingency."

Prepared by David Abernethy