



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

P.O. Box 358
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Phone: (867) 979-8000
Fax : (867) 979-8039

Secteur de l'Arctique de l'est
Boîte postale 358
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Tél: (867) 979-8000
Télécopieur: (867) 979-8039

January 20, 2010

Our file Notre référence
NU-08-0040
Revised Freshwater Intake

Rachel Lee Gould, M.Sc.
Environmental Coordinator
Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited - Meadowbank Division
P.O. Box 540; Baker Lake, Nunavut; X0C 0A0

Via: Email

Dear Ms. Gould:

Subject: Freshwater Intake Barge – Revised Permit Application.
Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.(AEM), Meadowbank.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has reviewed correspondence and supporting documentation for a revision to the freshwater intake for the Meadowbank Gold Project.

Your proposal has been reviewed to determine whether it is likely to result in impacts to fish and fish habitat which are prohibited by the habitat protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act* or those prohibitions of the *Species at Risk Act* that apply to aquatic species.*

It is our understanding that your proposal consists of:

- Utilizing a freshwater intake barge in Third Portage Lake, approximately 23 metres from shore in approximately 4 metres of water.
- Utilizing intake screens within the upper 1 meter of the water column.
- Withdrawing water intermittently as required at a maximum pump rate of 41.67 L/s with a water velocity at the screen to be approximately 0.038 m/s.
- Utilizing no. 2 stainless steel mesh with an opening of 1 sq cm.
- Annual maintenance to inspect and clean the fish screen and intake pump.

*Those sections most relevant to the review of development proposals include 20, 22, 32 and 35 of the *Fisheries Act* and sections 32, 33 and 58 of the *Species at Risk Act*. For more information please visit www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

- Monitoring to verify presence/absence of fish.

As outlined in the following plan and correspondence:

- Meadowbank Gold Project – Revised Application for Water Intake Pipe Authorization for the mine site.
- Email on November 23, 2009 from Rachel Gould (AEM) to Dave Balint (DFO).
- Phone call January 6th, 2010 between Stephane Robert (AEM) and Dave Balint.
- Email on January 8th, 2010 from Stephane Robert to Dave Balint.

DFO notes that the *Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guideline* recommends a screen opening of 2.54 mm. However, DFO has concluded that your proposal is not likely to result in impacts to fish and fish habitat since the pumping and withdrawal rates are limited.

The pumping rates and velocity determination should be monitored for verification. In addition, monitoring for presence/absence of fish should also be conducted during open water to verify that fish are not impinged or entrained.

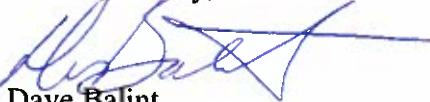
You will not need to obtain a formal approval from DFO.

If the plans have changed or if annual maintenance provides evidence of fish entrainment or impingement you should contact this office to determine if the advice in this letter still applies.

This letter does not permit the deposit of a deleterious substance (section 36 of the *Fisheries Act*) into waters frequented by fish nor does it permit the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat (section 35 of the *Fisheries Act*). It is your responsibility to obtain any other federal, territorial, or municipal approvals.

Should you have any questions please contact me at (519) 668-2132, or by email at Dave.Balint@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,



Dave Balint
Senior Habitat Biologist
Fisheries and Oceans Canada- Eastern Arctic Area

Copy

info@NIRB
Phyllis Beaulieu, NWB