

**File: 2AM-MEA1530** 

February 5, 2025

Marie-Pier Marcil Environmental Project Coordinator Agnico Eagle Mines Limited - Meadowbank Division Suite 540 - Baker Lake Nunavut, Canada XOC 0A0

E-mail: marie-pier.marcil@agnicoeagle.com

RE: Water Licence No: 2AM-MEA1530; Notice of Construction for Meadowbank Tailings Storage Facility Water Collection Pond

Dear Marie-Pier Marcil:

On January 10, 2025, the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) received a notice of construction (Notice) from Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle or Licensee) for Meadowbank Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) Water Collection Pond for the Water Licensee 2AM-MEA1530 (Licence) issued for the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project (Project). In the Notice, the Licensee advised of their intent to start construction of a water management infrastructure, between the airstrip and the South Cell TSF, that includes a water collection pond and a channel, and is a part of progressive reclamation activities to ultimately close the TSF. The Notice further provided information on the pond volume, construction phases and timeline.

On January 10, 2025, the NWB acknowledged and distributed the Notice for review with the deadline for comments set for January 24, 2025. The NWB received submissions from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) stating that they had no comments, concerns or recommendations at this time.

Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA) submitted comments on January 23, 2025. Agnico Eagle provided their responses on February 3, 2025. KivIA confirmed, on February 4, 2025, that their concerns were addressed by the Licensee's responses.

Below is a summary of KivIA's comments and the Licensee's responses accordingly:

- KivIA asked for additional diagrams that show the location of the pumping facility that will pump the accumulated water from this pond to the open pits, and the water lines that will be used by the pumping facility to pump the accumulated water from the pond to the open pits.
  - <u>Response:</u> Agnico Eagle provided a figure representing general location of the pumping system in the first development phase of the TSF water collection pond, and a general layout of the water line to be used to pump water from the TSF water collection pond to the Portage open pit.
- KivIA requested for information on how and where any water accumulated during the construction
  activities will be pumped, and whether the Licensee intends on routinely testing the water that is
  pumped during the construction of this pond.

Response: Agnico Eagle noted that the work will be completed mostly during winter, and no water management measures are expected to be necessary during construction. If needed, water accumulating during the excavation work will be pumped to the TSF South Cell with portable submersible pumps and flexible water hoses. Sediment and erosion control measures will be put in place if needed. Agnico Eagle further noted that the water pumped during the excavation will not be specifically sampled and analyzed as the water will remain within the TSF, however, the monitoring of the water accumulating in the TSF South Cell will be sampled at the station ST-21 South Cell.

• KivIA asked whether the Licensee have a safety monitoring plan for routinely evaluating the integrity of the airstrip during the blasting activities.

Response: Agnico Eagle noted that best blasting practices will be used to ensure safety of the personnel, environment and of important infrastructures, such as the airstrip, located close to the work site. In addition, the blasting activities will be scheduled to ensure that the airstrip will be inspected following the blast by qualified personnel and that any repairs needed will be completed in a timely manner, to ensure compliance of the airstrip and no flight delay. Where practical, nearby airstrip infrastructures such as runway lights will be protected during the blasts if required. It should be noted that blasting activities will be designed to limit ground vibration and fly-rock. The blast preparation will include protective measures such as blast mats when needed. All blasts will be monitored in accordance with the Meadowbank Complex Blast Monitoring Program.

Copies of all documents received in support of the Notice and comments provided can be accessed through the NWB's Public Registry site using the following link:

https://public.nwb-oen.ca/registry/2%20MINING%20MILLING/2A/2AM%20-%20Mining/2AM-MEA1530%20Agnico/3%20TECH/D%20CONSTRUCTION/Tailings%20Storage%20Faclity%20Water%20Collection%20Pond/

The Board acknowledges the Notice and confirms that the proposed activity is consistent with the existing terms and conditions of the Licence, and hence, the Licensee may proceed in accordance with the Notice. The Board looks forward to receiving as-built drawings of the infrastructure along with the 2024 Annual Report.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please contact the NWB Licensing Department by email to <a href="mailto:licensing@nwb-oen.ca">licensing@nwb-oen.ca</a> or by phone at (867) 360-6338.

Sincerely,

Abid Jan

Technical Advisor Nunavut Water Board

Cc: Distribution List – Meadowbank