



Our reference
File #9545-2-2.2AM.MEA0815
CIDMS #368367

December 2, 2009

Your reference
2AM-MEA0815/TR/F16

Richard Dwyer
Licensing Administrator
Nunavut Water Board
Gjoa Haven, Nunavut
X0E 1J0

Sent Via Email

Dear Richard,

**Subject WATER LICENSE #2AM-MEA0815, AGNICO-EAGLE MINES
LTD., MEADOWBANK GOLD PROJECT, SUBMISSION OF
UPDATED WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND MINE WASTE
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Please be advised that on behalf of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, I have completed a review of the two (2) above referenced Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. submissions to the Nunavut Water Board.

A Technical Review Memorandum (attached) is provided to the Board for consideration.

Should you have any questions regarding this submission, feel free to contact me at 867-975-4555 or David.Abernethy@inac-ainc.gc.ca.

Regards,

David W. Abernethy
Water Resources Regional Coordinator
Operations Directorate, Nunavut Regional Office
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

Attached.

Cc: Ian Rumbolt – INAC Water Resources Manager, Nunavut Regional Office

TECHNICAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM

Date: Dec. 2/09

To: Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board

From: David Abernethy, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Re: **WATER LICENSE #2AM-MEA0815, AGNICO-EAGLE MINES LTD., MEADOWBANK GOLD PROJECT, SUBMISSION OF UPDATED WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND MINE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On Nov. 2/09 the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) distributed Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. (AEM) Update Water Management Plan and Mine Waste Management Plan to interested parties for review. These plans were submitted to the Board for approval pursuant to Part F, Item #16 of their Type A Water License, #2AM-MEA0815.

Part F, Item #16 of the License states,

The Licensee shall submit to the Board for approval, within six (6) months of License approval, a revised Mine Waste and Water Management Plan to include,

- a. Detailed Ammonia Management Plan;
- b. Integration of the Waste and Water Management Plan submitted under Water License #8BC-TEH0809, Part D, Item #1;
- c. Field testing program for closure cover depth of the Tailings Storage Facility and Waste Rock Storage Facilities with consideration for climate change; and,
- d. A protocol for distinguishing Seepage through facilities.

The following documents were reviewed when preparing this Technical Review Memorandum,

- Meadowbank Gold Project Updated Water Management Plan. AEM, Jul. 09;
- Meadowbank Gold Project Mine Waste Management Plan. AEM, Oct. 09;
- Meadowbank Gold Project Waste Rock and Water Management Plan, Jul. 08 (Water License #8BC-TEH0809, Part D, Item #1);

- Meadowbank Gold Project Water License #8BC-TEH0809 Monitoring Plan; and,
- Meadowbank Gold Project Mine Waste and Water Management Plan, Aug. 07.

B. RESULTS OF REVIEW

The following comments / recommendations are provided for the Board's consideration,

1. Neither of the submitted plans include a detailed Ammonia Management Plan as required by License condition Part F, Item #16 (a). AEM must ensure that this plan be submitted for approval in a revised Mine Waste Management Plan;
2. The submitted plans appear to integrate the July 2008 Waste Rock and Water Management Plan that was submitted pursuant to Part D, Item #1 of Water License #8BC-TEH0809 with the exception of water management practices for access road and quarry maintenance. AEM must ensure that these topics are addressed in a revised Water Management Plan. The Meadowbank Gold Project Water License #8BC-TEH809 Monitoring Plan should be referenced;
3. A “field testing program for closure cover depth of the Tailings Storage Facility and Waste Rock Storage Facilities with consideration for climate change” has not been provided as required by License condition Part F, Item #16 (c). Anticipated cover thicknesses for the Tailings Storage Facility and the Portage Rock Storage Facility are provided and reference is made to thermal monitoring and cover trials at the Tailings Storage Facility. INAC recommends that AEM be required to submit a revised Mine Waste Management Plan that includes a detailed field testing program once it has been developed;
4. A protocol for distinguishing seepage through facilities has not been provided as required by License condition Part F, Item #16 (d). AEM must revise this plan to include a protocol that complements their May 2009 Water Quality Flow and Monitoring Plan and the Part I, Item #8 and 15 License conditions (they address seepage monitoring). Furthermore, the locations of all proposed (i.e., Table 2 of License, ST-S-1 to TBD) and internal monitoring locations must be referenced in a diagram/schematic; and,
5. The submitted Updated Water Management and Mine Waste Management Plans cannot be reviewed in isolation from other plans submitted pursuant to Water Licenses #2AM-MEA0815 and #8BC-TEH0809. INAC recommends that AEM reference all applicable plans in future revisions to these plans.

Prepared by David W. Abernethy
INAC Water Resources Regional Coordinator, Nunavut Regional Office

Cc: Ian Rumbolt – INAC Water Resources Manager, Nunavut Regional Office