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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

File No. 2AM-MEA0815 TR/G3

July 3, 2013

Stéphane Robert
Manager Regulatory Affairs Nunavut
Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited – Meadowbank Division
10200, Route de Preissac,
Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec J0Y 1C0
Email: stephane.robert@agnico-eagle.com

Subject: Licence No. 2AM-MEA0815 – Notice of Modification: East Dike Non-contact Seepage Water Discharge to Second Portage Lake

Dear Mr. Robert,

On April 23, 2013 the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) received a submission from Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. (AEM) entitled “Meadowbank Water License 2AM-MEA0815 – East Dike Seepage Modification” with respect to the East Dike non-contact seepage water discharge. The following documents were included with the request:

- Cover letter dated April 22, 2013;
- East Dike Seepage – NWB; Application for a Type A Water Licence Modification dated April 4, 2013;
- Appendix A. Technical Memorandum: Discharge of Dike Seepage Water into Third Portage Lake and Second Portage Lake – Meadowbank Gold Project dated November 24, 2011 (Golder Associates 2011).

AEM is applying for a modification to the Type A Water License to include East Dike Seepage Water as Non-contact water effluent and to pump this water through a separate sump collection system and discharge pipe, back to Second Portage Lake prior to contact with mining activity.

AEM reports that receiving environment water from Second Portage Lake is presently seeping through the East Dike and is collected by two sumps prior to pumping to the Portage attenuation pond. Once this seepage water has been pumped to the Portage Attenuation Pond it is considered “contact water”, as it is mixed with site run off and collection water from the Portage and Goose Pit. As per the site Water License, any water collected in the Attenuation Pond is treated (with all the attenuation water) through the site Water Treatment Plant prior to discharge to Third Portage Lake. In an effort to reduce freshwater consumption, Agnico-Eagle Mines (AEM) assessed whether the East Dike seepage water can be used for milling, progressive re-

flooding or dust suppression during operations. However, AEM states that this may not be feasible throughout the year as the volume of seepage from the East Dike is not large enough to successfully be pumped over long distances (i.e. to the mill). AEM is proposing to pump this water through a separate sump collection system and discharge pipe, back to Second Portage Lake prior to contact with mining activity (thus avoiding site contact water).

On May 21, 2013 the NWB distributed AEM's submission to interested parties for a thirty (30) day review. The NWB received comments from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada¹ (AANDC) stating that the Department is not opposed to the submitted modification request and providing recommendations for the Board's consideration.

Upon review of the request, supporting documentation, terms and conditions in Licence 2AM-MEA0813 and submission from AANDC, the NWB hereby accepts the notice of Modification and approves (Motion No. 2013-A1-003) the proposed modification as presented in the April 23, 2013 notice and advises AEM that:

- The Seepage water should be directed to the Portage Attenuation Pond if the Licence criteria are not met;
- Once verified with Environment Canada (EC) AEM should provide the Board with written notification on whether or not the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations (MMER) will apply to this discharge;
- The discharge velocity should not exceed 6 m/s to promote mixing of seepage water and minimize the potential for lake-bottom erosion; and
- All associated Core Receiving Environmental Monitoring Program's (CREMP) water quality sampling results should be included within the annual monitoring reports.

The NWB would also like to highlight Licence conditions and requirements that apply to the proposed modification which include:

- Part F, Item 4 - Prior to discharge, all water collected within the Non-Contact Water diversions during Operations at monitoring stations ST-5, ST-6, and ST-7, shall not exceed the following:

Parameter	Maximum Average Concentration (mg/L)	Maximum Allowable Grab Sample Concentration (mg/L)
TSS	15.0	30.0

- Part F, Item 8 - The Licensee shall provide at least ten (10) days notice to the Inspector prior to any planned Discharges from any facilities. The notice shall include an estimated volume proposed for Discharge and the receiving location.

¹ Letter and Technical Memorandum from D. Abernethy AANDC, to P. Beaulieu NWB. Re: Water Licence No. 2AM-MEA0815 – Meadowbank Gold Project – Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. – East Dike Seepage Modification Request, dated June 21, 2013.

- Part G, Item 4 - The Licensee shall provide as-built plans and drawings of the Modifications referred to in this Licence within ninety (90) days of completion of the Modification. These plans and drawings shall be stamped by an Engineer.

Should you have any questions or require any clarification with respect to the above, please feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 360-6338 ext. 35 or by email at k.kharatyan@nunavutwaterboard.org or David Hohnstein, Director Technical Services at (780) 443-4406 or by email at dts@nunavutwaterboard.org.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Karen Kharatyan
Technical Advisor

Attachment: Comments AANDC

Cc: Distribution list - Kivalliq