



Eastern Arctic Area
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NU-10-0043

January 28, 2011

Stéphane Robert
Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
Meadowbank Division
20, Route 395
Cadillac, Quebec
J0Y 1C0

Dear Mr. Robert:

Subject: DFO Comments, No Net Loss Plan – Meadowbank Airstrip Extension.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) received the No Net Loss Plan for the Meadowbank Airstrip Extension on January 11, 2011. After reviewing this document DFO has the following questions and comments regarding this document.

1. Section 1.2.1 generally describes that due to Transport Canada safety regulations and dimensions of the pit it was decided to extend the airstrip to the north into Third Portage Lake instead of to the south (inland). It is preferable to minimize the amount of infilling of fish habitat that will occur as a result of this project. Please describe in greater detail the rationale for extending the airstrip into Third Portage Lake, taken into consideration the requirements of the appropriate safety regulations and the current proximity of the pit to the airstrip?
2. Section 6.2 describes the numerous variables that will be monitored prior to connecting Dogleg Pond and Dogleg Pond North. A pre-construction baseline survey will be used to compare against a post construction monitoring program, which has been designed to identify deviations from baseline conditions. What will be the monitoring characteristic (s) that will be used to determine if no net loss has been achieved and there has been a measurable increase in productive capacity of the fishery resource after the two ponds have been connected?

The above questions and comments relate to details of the NNLP, the questions presented below relate to the construction methodology and procedures for the construction of the airstrip extension and the connection of Dogleg Pond North and Dogleg Pond.

3. The NNLP for the extension of the airstrip did not include detailed design drawings for the extension of the airstrip or the associated compensation project to connect Dogleg Pond and Dogleg North Pond. Construction activities for the airstrip and pond connection should only proceed after detailed design drawings have been submitted to DFO for review. Will you be providing detailed design drawings?
4. Section 1.2.2 states that if necessary, turbidity curtain will be installed to protect the receiving environment during the open water season. S.36(3) of the *Fisheries Act* prohibits the release of a deleterious substance, such as sediment, into fish bearing waterbody. DFO recommends that measures, such as the use of turbidity curtains to enclose the in-water work area, be implemented to minimize the migration of elevated total suspended solids (TSS) within Third Portage Lake. Please describe the measures AEM will be implementing to mitigate the release of sediment into fish bearing waters during construction of the airstrip.
5. It would be valuable to conduct TSS monitoring outside of the turbidity curtain to ensure that the curtain is effectively containing any sediment that may be mobilized during construction activities. At the time of construction, the lake will be covered with ice and a visual inspection of the “zone of influence” of the sediment plume will not be possible. Please provide a methodology of how this TSS monitoring will be performed.
6. The report states that a channel will be excavated in the ground between the two ponds, and no further substrate will be added. What type of substrate is the ground composed of between Dogleg Pond and Dogleg North Pond?
7. The NNLP plan mentions that drilling and blasting may be required to excavate the connection between Dogleg Pond and Dogleg North Pond. When using explosives in or near fish habitat, please refer to the DFO Guidelines for the Use of Explosives In or Near Canadian Fisheries Waters (DFO, 1998). It should be noted that DFO Eastern Arctic recommends using 50 kPa as the threshold for instantaneous pressure change (IPC) in order to prevent physical damage to fish, when using explosives during the frozen conditions. .
8. Please describe how the excavated connection between Dogleg Pond and Dogleg North Pond be will be constructed to provide enhanced fish habitat for lake trout? Please include these specifics in the detailed design drawings that will be required to be submitted to DFO prior to construction of the airstrip.
9. The design and placement of rock on the exterior of the airstrip extension within Third Portage Lake should be done in a manner that enhances and creates fish habitat. Please include design information stating how the rock will be placed in the

detailed design drawings which will be required to be submitted to DFO prior to construction of the airstrip

If you have any questions concerning the above or would like to discuss in greater detail please contact me directly by telephone at (403) 292-8675 by email at Robert.Bedingfield@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Sincerely,



Bobby Bedingfield
Fish Habitat Biologist
Eastern Arctic Area, Iqaluit Office

cc. Derrick Moggy, DFO Eastern Arctic
Amanda Hanson, Nunavut Impact Review Board
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board