



Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Pêches et Océans Canada

P.O. Box 358  
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September 26, 2012

Your file      Votre référence

Our file      Notre référence  
NU-03-0191

Ryan Vanengen  
Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.  
93 Rue Arsenault bureau 202  
Val d' Or, Quebec  
J0P 0E9



Dear Mr. Vanengen:

**Subject:** Proposal not likely to result in impacts to fish and fish habitat provided that additional mitigation measures are applied.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Fish Habitat Management Program (DFO) received your proposal on September 21, 2012 pertaining to the extension of the existing airstrip at Meadowbank Mine. Please refer to the file number and title below:

DFO File No.: **NU-03-0191**

Title: **Meadowbank Gold Mine Dike Construction and Dewatering Pits,  
Second Portage Lake, Kivalliq Region**

You may be aware of recent changes to the *Fisheries Act*, however these have not affected the review of your project at this time. For more information on current changes to the *Fisheries Act*, as well as changes taking effect in the coming months, please refer to the DFO website at [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/habitat/habitat-eng.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/habitat/habitat-eng.htm).

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.\*

Our review consisted of: *Meadowbank – Airstrip Extension Risk Assessment and Categorization* Proposal dated September 21, 2012 by Agnico Eagle.

\*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](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

We understand that you propose to:

- Construct an extension of the existing airstrip approximately beginning January 2013 via in-water rockfill and armouring placement into Third Portage Lake.*
- Avoid in-water works during the critical spawning period for Round Whitefish, Lake Trout and Arctic Char.*
- Store all material and equipment 30m above the ordinary high water mark*
- Hire a qualified environmental technician to photograph pre and post construction*
- Conduct follow up monitoring during freshet to evaluate bank stability, erosion and TSS inputs; and throughout the summer following rainfall events*

To reduce potential impacts to fish and fish habitat we are recommending that the following mitigation measures be included into your plans:

- Machinery should arrive on site in a clean condition and is to be maintained free of fluid leaks. Wash, refuel and service machinery and store fuel and other materials for machinery away from the water to prevent any deleterious substance from entering the water. An emergency spill kit should be kept on site in case of fluid leaks or spills from machinery.*
- Only clean rock, appropriately sized and free of deleterious substances should be used for riprap. These materials should be obtained off site and should not be taken from below the average high water level of any waterbody.*
- All spoil materials and debris from construction should be removed from the site and properly disposed of above the high water mark such that they do not enter any waterbody.*

Provided that the mitigation measures described above are incorporated into your plans, DFO has concluded that your proposal is not likely to result in impacts to fish and fish habitat and you will not need to obtain a formal approval from DFO in order to proceed with your proposal. It remains your responsibility, however, to meet the requirements of any other federal, provincial and municipal agencies.

If your plans have changed or if the description of your proposal is incomplete you should consult our website at <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/habitat/habitat-eng.htm> to determine if a DFO review is required, and if so contact this office to determine if the advice in this letter still applies.

Please be advised that any impacts to fish and fish habitat which result from a failure to implement this proposal as described or incorporate the additional mitigation measures included in this letter could lead to corrective action such as enforcement. In addition, under the new *Fisheries Act*, there is a requirement to notify DFO of any harmful alteration or disruption, or any destruction of fish habitat that has not been authorized.

If you have any questions please contact the undersigned at (867) 979-8019, by fax at (867) 979-8039, or by email at [Elizabeth.Patreau@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.Patreau@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Patreau  
Senior Fish Habitat Biologist