



March 4, 2013

Our reference
IQALUIT-#643170

Your reference
2AM-MEA0815/TR/G1

Phyllis Beaulieu
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
Gjoa Haven, Nunavut X0E 1J0

**Re: Licence No. 2AM-MEA0815 – Meadowbank Gold Project – Agnico-Eagle
Mines Ltd. – Modification Request for Airstrip Expansion – Kivalliq Region**

Dear Ms. Beaulieu,

Thank you for your email of February 15, 2013, concerning Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s licence modification request to allow for the expansion of the Meadowbank airstrip.

A memorandum is provided for the Board's consideration. Comments / recommendations are provided pursuant to the Department's mandated responsibilities under the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and the *Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Act*.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at 867-975-4555 or email at David.Abernethy@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca for further information.

Yours very truly,

David Abernethy
Regional Coordinator
Water Resources Division
Resource Management Directorate
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

Encl.

c.c.: Murray Ball, Manager of Water Resources
Erik Allain, Manager of Field Operations

Memorandum

| | | |
|----------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| TO | Phyllis Beaulieu Manager of Licensing Nunavut Water Board | OUR REFERENCE IQALUIT-#643170 |
| FROM | David Abernethy Water Resources Regional Coordinator Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada | YOUR REFERENCE 2AM-MEA0815/TR/G1 |
| | | DATE March 4, 2013 |
| SUBJECT | Licence No. 2AM-MEA0815 – Meadowbank Gold Project – Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. – Modification Request for Airstrip Expansion – Kivalliq Region | |

A. Project Description

On February 15, 2013, the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) provided notification of Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. (AEM) request to modify the Meadowbank Gold Project's Type 'A' water licence, No. 2AM-MEA0815, to permit an expansion of the Meadowbank airstrip. As stated in the executive summary of the submitted modification request,

AEM is proposing to expand the size of the airstrip in order to accommodate a Boeing 737 jet. In a remote work environment such as Meadowbank, an expanded airstrip and the ability to use larger aircraft will ultimately reduce the number of charter flights per week (10 to 5) and the hours per flight, while increasing the capacity to transport personnel and essential cargo to site. The expanded airstrip will also offer an improved safety measure for greater accessibility and evacuation potential to and from the Meadowbank site.

This request was previously made on February 4, 2010 and in a letter dated April 15, 2010, the NWB determined that a licence amendment application would be necessary for the proposed activity. The initial request was for a 600 m expansion to the airstrip, a substantial portion was to be constructed in Third Portage Lake. On March 2, 2010, the Nunavut Planning Commission provided notice that no conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) would be required. On September 15, 2010, the Nunavut Impact Review Board issued a screening decision report that confirmed the proposal could be processed without a review under Section 12, Part 5 or 6 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

The resubmitted modification request is for a revised undertaking that substantially reduces potential impacts to Third Portage Lake. Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. have reviewed their airstrip expansion design with the aim of reducing cost and limiting the length that would extend into Third Portage Lake. As a result AEM are proposing a 255

m extension, capable of accommodating a Boeing 737 jet, but with a limited encroachment of 18 m into Third Portage Lake.

Interested parties were requested to review the submitted licence modification request and provide comments by March 4, 2013.

B. RESULTS OF REVIEW

On behalf of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, the following comments/ recommendations are submitted for the Board's consideration,

1. General

Provided that AEM follow the construction and monitoring programs presented in the submitted proposal AANDC does not have any issue with this modification request. Limiting construction activities to the winter season during freeze thru conditions, applying lessons learned from the construction of the East and Bay Goose Dikes, and recognizing the established Core Receiving Environment Monitoring Plan provide confidence in AEM's ability to limit any effects to the water quality and biological productivity of Third Portage Lake.

Prepared by David Abernethy