



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

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July 9, 2007

Our file Notre référence
NU-03-0190

Louise Grondin
Meadowbank Mining Corporation
20 Route 395
Cadillac, Quebec J0X 1C0

Dear Ms. Grondin:

**SUBJECT: Decommissioning, Restoration and Monitoring Plans for the All-Weather
Private Access Road Stream Crossings - Meadowbank Gold Project, Nunavut**

Thank you for the submission of decommissioning, restoration and monitoring plans, received on June 29, 2007, for the above project as stipulated in Conditions 4.3 and 5.1 of the *Fisheries Act* Authorization NU-03-0190. In regards to the report containing the decommissioning and restoration plans, the following comments are provided.

In section 4.1, mitigation measures include stabilizing any disturbed soils and slopes within or near the channels, with a permanent covering of clean shot rock underlain by geotextile. Geotextile fabric should not be included as part of any permanent treatment in the active channel or floodplain of any watercourse as it is not compatible with natural channel design principles. Geotextiles applied in fluvial environments are invariably exposed over time

In section 4.2, DFO is satisfied with the channel crossing inspection and maintenance plan. In regard to fish and fish habitat, DFO commends you for providing a comprehensive inspection plan for the sediment and erosion controls to ensure that the measures are functioning properly and preventing entry of sediment into waters frequented by fish.

In section 5.3, the decommissioning plan indicates that all in-stream works (i.e. culverts, fill and bridges) will be removed down to the original channel bed, where possible. Upon restoration of the bed and banks of the watercourse, the restoration must not impede fish passage for Arctic Grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*). It is noted that the details of the habitat reclamation will be included in the detailed engineering for closure upon receipt of additional information on flow and channel characteristics.

Provided that the above revisions are made, the decommissioning and restoration plan meets the requirements of condition 4.3 of the *Fisheries Act* Authorization NU-03-0190 (2) to DFO's satisfaction.

Within the monitoring plan dated June 29, 2007, the timing window restriction for waters frequented by fish is between the on-set of open water conditions through to the end of July. In the "Approvals" section of the Monitoring Plan, it is noted that fish migration monitoring activities have already commenced in the third week of June. DFO has no objection to the proposed timing window from the on-set of open water conditions through to July 30, 2007. As

the timing of the on-set of open water differs from year to year, it is recommended that the timing window restriction is reviewed and adjusted each year to cover the spawning and incubation periods for Arctic grayling.

In the "Schedule" section of the monitoring plan, it was suggested that the monitoring components be reassessed after obtaining several years of data. DFO has no objection to this recommendation; however, any changes to the monitoring plan components are to be submitted in writing to DFO for review and approval.

The proposed monitoring of the "Continued Use of Waterbodies for Adult Fish Migration (Condition 5.2.2)" is satisfactory, provided that any future changes be submitted in writing for DFO review and approval.

All other aspects of the monitoring plan, submitted by Gary Mann (Azimuth), on behalf of Meadowbank Mining Inc./Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd., are satisfactory to DFO. We look forward to receiving the detailed compensation plan, as stipulated in condition 4.1 of the *Fisheries Act* authorization, on or before August 15, 2007.

Please contact Amy Liu at (867) 979-8007 or by fax at (867) 979-8039 should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

Amy Liu
Senior Habitat Biologist
Eastern Arctic Area
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Copy: Paul Savoie, DFO
Leslie Payette, NIRB
Phyllis Beaulieu, NWB
Gary Mann, Azimuth
Stephane Robert, Agnico-Eagle