



Environment Canada
Environnement Canada

Northern Division
Environmental Protection Operations Division
Prairie and Northern Region
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Oct. 16, 2008

Our File: 4703 001 015

Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119,
Gjoa Haven, NT X0B 1J0

Attention: Richard Dwyer

By email

Re: Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. Ground Water Monitoring Plan Review Comments

EC has reviewed the Ground Water Monitoring Plan, dated August 2008, proposed by Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited for the Meadowbank Gold Project, and provides the following comments for your consideration.

We are pleased to see that the proposed wells will be relocated outside the mine footprint. Two of the proposed wells, MW08-01 and MW08-03 are reasonably close to the previous wells. New well MW08-02 is basically in a new area (i.e. across Second Portage Lake from MW08-03 and the previous wells) although the rock formation is anticipated to be the same. The rock formation for the wells, MW08-04 and MW08-05 located beneath the East Dike is unknown.

Four wells, MW03-01, MW03-03, MW06-05 and MW06-06 were all installed to sample ground water from the iron formation beneath Goose Island. The one remaining operational well, MW03-01 will eventually be destroyed by development of the Goose Island pit and is not proposed to be replaced by the current well installation program. Effects on ground water quality in this area, however, are not likely to result until mining is complete and the Goose Island pit is reflooded. During dewatering and mining of the Goose Island pit, the area will likely be a ground water discharge area due to drawdown of lake levels and ground water quality can be monitored through pit discharges.

With respect to the new well design, we note that on paper it would seem to be robust but the potential for failure particularly during installation in Arctic conditions increases as the complexity of the installation increases. AEM has advised that duplicate samples were collected this year from MW03-01 on Goose Island, and that results will be available this fall. Two new wells were installed in 2008, and the balance will be installed in the 2009 summer season.

Samples will need to be collected as soon as possible to compare data at the new locations to previous data and establish a new baseline, if necessary, for ground water quality at the site prior to mining. It would be preferable to have some interannual data in addition to samples collected a month or so before mining starts.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 669-4735 with any questions or comments regarding the foregoing.

Yours truly,

Anne Wilson
Water Pollution Specialist

cc: Carey Ogilvie (Head, EA-North, EPOD)