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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

**File: 2AM-MEA0815 /
Short Term Renewal**

March 20, 2015

By Courier, Email and Regular Mail

Honourable Bernard Valcourt, PC, QC, MP
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
21st Floor, 10 Wellington
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H4

Email: Bernard.Valcourt@parl.gc.ca

**Subject: Licence No. 2AM-MEA0815 – Meadowbank Gold Mine Project, Nunavut;
Short Term Renewal**

Dear Honourable Minister Valcourt:

Please find enclosed, the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) Decision regarding the Short Term Renewal application for Licence No. 2AM-MEA0815 (the Licence). The licence was issued to Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. (AEM or Applicant) by the NWB on June 9, 2008, and was subsequently approved by the Minister on July 10, 2008. It is set to expire on May 31, 2015.

On July 23, 2014, AEM submitted a full licence renewal application (Renewal Application) to the NWB. A Technical Meeting / Pre-hearing Conference (TM/PHC) for the Renewal Application was held on January 14 and 15, 2015, in person, in the community closest to undertaking, Baker Lake, Nunavut. On February 20, 2015, the NWB issued a PHC Decision Report. On February 27, 2015 a Public Hearing notice was issued, indicating that an in person Public Hearing is scheduled for April 29 and 30, 2015 in Baker Lake, Nunavut.

During the TM/PHC associated with the Renewal Application, it was discussed that the overall processing and timing of a renewal of the existing Licence may result in the existing Licence expiring before the Board and Minister have completed their consideration of the Renewal Application. Consequently, the Applicant indicated that they would submit a short term renewal application (STR Application) to bridge any potential gap between the expiry of the Existing Licence and the potential issuance of a renewed Licence.

In these discussions it was noted that, as permitted under s. 9(1)(b) of the *Nunavut Waters Regulations*, SOR/2013-693, the STR Application can be processed without a Public Hearing.

On January 23, 2015, the Board received the STR Application from AEM requesting a renewal of the Existing Licence on the following basis:

- No changes to the Existing Licence (administrative or otherwise);
- The short term renewal would not exceed 180 days from the date on which the existing Licence expires (May 31, 2015), with the expiry of the STR occurring on the earlier of November 27, 2015 or on the grant of a renewed water licence, should the Board issue and the Minister approve the Renewal Application for a renewed water licence following the Public Hearing in Baker Lake;
- No plans, studies, reports, or designs would be submitted in support of the STR as this information has already been provided, or will be provided during the Board's processing of the Application; and
- The assumption that even if the STR is approved, the Renewal Application that is currently before the Board will continue to be processed in as timely and efficient a manner as possible.

The NWB published Notice of the STR Application on February 6, 2015 and commenced a thirty (30) day technical review and comment period, which closed on March 9, 2015. The Board made a Decision regarding the STR Application on March 20, 2015. By Motion No.: 2014-32-P9-04, the duly authorized Panel of the Board responsible for dealing with the STR Application, authorized the issuance of this Short Term Renewal Licence, with only a change to the Expiry Date of the Licence, adding a further term of up to a maximum of 180 days beyond the current expiry date, which would result in the Licence now expiring on November 27, 2015.

In accordance with section 56 of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, this short term renewal of the existing Licence requires your approval and as such, the NWB submits the attached Decision and Licence for your consideration.

Should you have any questions and/or require clarification on the above, or wish to discuss further, please contact the undersigned in writing.

Sincerely,



Lootie Toomasie
Nunavut Water Board
Hearing Chair

LT/kk/pb

Attach: Short Term Renewal Licence and Reasons for Decision

cc: Meadowbank Distribution List
NWB Public Registry