

Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Prairie & Northern Region
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Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7

ECCC File: 6100 000 012/015
NWB File: 2AM-MEL1631



July 16, 2026

via email at: licensing@nwb-oen.ca

Richard Dwyer
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Dear Richard Dwyer:

RE: 2AM-MEL1631 –Agnico Eagle Mines – Meliadine Gold Mine Project – Type A Water Licence Amendment Application

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has reviewed the information submitted to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) by Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. (“the Proponent”) regarding the above-mentioned Type A Water Licence Amendment Application.

ECCC provides expert information and knowledge to project assessments on subjects within the department’s mandate and within federal jurisdiction, including greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, air quality, water quality and quantity, migratory birds, species at risk, environmental emergencies preparedness and response, and climate and meteorology. This work includes reviewing proponents’ characterization of environmental effects and proposed mitigation measures, and providing information and knowledge to decision-makers on activities needed to mitigate these environmental effects within federal jurisdiction. Any comments received from ECCC in this context do not relieve the proponent of its obligations to respect all applicable federal legislation.

Please note that due to capacity and current workload, ECCC was unable to conduct a comprehensive initial assessment, but anticipates providing a thorough analysis during the Technical Review stage of the Project. To assist with planning and allocation of resources, ECCC requests that the Board kindly provide a timeline for the Technical Review and subsequent meetings as soon as possible.



The following Information Requests are directed to the Proponent:

1. Interim Extension Tailings Storage Pad

References

Meliadine 2AM-MEL1631 Water Licence Amendment Operational Update – Main Application Document (Agnico Eagle, June 2026)

- Section 3.3.4. Tailings Management

Appendix 5-L. Mine Waste Management Plan V.15 (Agnico Eagle, June 2026)

- Section 4.7. Interim Extension Storage Pad for Tailings

Comment

The 2026 Water Licence (WL) amendment proposes an interim extension tailings storage pad for contingency use under upset conditions. In the Main Application Document, the Proponent indicates that the extension storage pad would be used intermittently when the Church facility is at capacity, and normal routes for tailings handling become unavailable for safety or operational reasons (e.g., during blizzard events, or caribou migration work suspension). However, in Section 4.7 of the Mine Waste Management Plan, the Proponent indicates that the extension storage pad would only be used during caribou migration. It is unclear when and under what other conditions the temporary storage pad would be used.

The extension storage pad would be 40 m x 40 m in size and consist of a layer of geotextile overlaid by a granular pad. The Mine Waste Management Plan also refers to a “sea can wall” along one side of the storage pad. Water would be captured within the water management system and directed to Collection Pond 1, and dust suppression would be implemented as required (spraying water, wind control measures). It is unclear whether there would be any vertical containment (aside from the seacan), or a limit on the height of tailings pile, and further details were not provided for water management, dust suppression and any monitoring of the storage pad.

The Proponent indicates that tailings stored on the extension storage pad would be removed as soon as operationally possible; several options are proposed, including relocation to another temporary storage area between the Church and Tailings Storage Facility, to allow the material to thaw (Main Application Document, Figure 3.3-3). It is unclear if this additional temporary storage option would have measures for water management and dust suppression.

ECCC Information Request

ECCC requests that the Proponent:

- clarify the conditions under which the extension storage pad may be needed, and how long the tailings are expected to be stored there; and

- provide additional information regarding the construction and containment of the extension storage pad and the additional proposed temporary storage area (proposed as an option for relocation of tailings from the extension storage pad), including any vertical containment features (in addition to the seacan), water management, dust suppression and monitoring.

2. Increased fuel storage

References

Meliadine 2AM-MEL1631 Water Licence Amendment Operational Update – Main Application Document (Agnico Eagle, June 2026)

- Section 3.3.9. Fuel Storage

Appendix 5-Q. Spill Contingency Plan V.18 (Agnico Eagle, June 2026)

- Section 3. Hazardous materials on-site

Appendix 5-C. Bulk Fuel Storage Facility: Environmental Performance Monitoring Plan (EPMP) V.3 (Agnico Eagle, June 2026)

- Section 1. Introduction

Comment

The 20260 WL Amendment includes a request to increase on-site fuel storage from 9.7 to 20 ML. This would include increased storage (6 ML) at the Main Meliadine Site and small storage tanks at Pump and F Zone areas. According to the Bulk Fuel Storage Facility Environmental Performance Monitoring Plan, the increased storage at the main site would be adjacent to the existing fuel tank in the industrial pad area. The Proponent indicates that detailed design reports related to construction of bulk fuel storage facilities would be provided 60 days ahead of construction in accordance with WL conditions and would continue to follow management practices outlined in the Spill Contingency Plan and Bulk Fuel Storage Facility Environmental Performance Monitoring Plan. Both plans include relatively minor updates related to the proposed increase in fuel storage; it is unclear if there will be further updates to management plans related to new fuel storage facilities and the increased amount of fuel stored on site.

ECCC Information Request

ECCC requests that the Proponent provide any further details on proposed changes to bulk fuel storage facilities and management practices related to the proposed increase in fuel storage.

If you need more information, please contact Erik Allen at Erik.Allen@ec.gc.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Small', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jody Small

Director, Environmental Protection and Operations Directorate, Prairie and Northern Region

cc: Eva Walker, Head, Environmental Assessment North (NT and NU)