



Indigenous and
Northern Affairs Canada

Affaires autochtones
et du Nord Canada

Executive Summary

Public Hearing
New Water Licence Application

Water Licence #2AM-MEL----
Proposed Meliadine Gold Mine
Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
Kivalliq Region, Nunavut

February 10, 2016



Canada 

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (the Department) is an interested party in the Nunavut Water Board's review of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd's (AEM) Type 'A' water licence application for the proposed Meliadine gold mine. Pursuant to federal legislation, the Department is tasked with co-managing Nunavut's freshwater resources with the Nunavut Water Board.

During the review, the Department raised concerns related to the water and mine waste management plans. The Applicant has addressed these concerns with the provision of information, clarifications and in some cases commitments to the satisfaction of the Department.

As part of its review, the Department outlined specific recommendations with respect to potential impacts on water quality and requested clarification on some issues. Listed below are the Department's recommendations:

- 1) AEM provide more clarity and information on how it plans to manage on-site water and reduce and eliminate impacts to the environment.
- 2) AEM provide more information and clarity on how arsenic will be handled during mining operations.
- 3) AEM provide more details in its monitoring plan, including locations and frequency of sampling events.
- 4) AEM provide clarification on the design of the tailings storage facility, including thermal instrumentation and monitoring.

These recommendations were met with commitments from the applicant to provide all documentation necessary to answer any remaining concerns the department would have with the water licence application within timelines specified by the NWB. The Department is looking forward to reviewing the documentation when made available.

As part of its review, INAC retained a third party to complete an independent reclamation cost estimate using RECLAIM. The estimate of \$49,554,667 was based on a review of AEM's Preliminary Closure and Reclamation Plan, other documentation provided within the water licence application and a site visit.

The Department will be participating in the upcoming public hearing in Rankin Inlet on February 10-11, 2016.