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## **Environment and Climate Change Canada's Presentation to the Nunavut Water Board Concerning Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meliadine Gold Project Type "A" Water Licence Application**

Nunavut Water Board Public Hearing  
Rankin Inlet, NU  
February 10-11, 2016

### **ECCC's Mandate**

- *Department of the Environment Act:*
  - General responsibility for environmental management and protection
  - Preserve and enhance water, air and soil quality
  - Conserve and protect:
    - Migratory birds, species at risk, flora and fauna
  - Provide meteorological information
  - Coordinate environmental policies and programs



## How ECCC Fulfills its Mandate

### Relevant Acts and Regulations:

- *Department of the Environment Act*
- *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*
- *Fisheries Act* – pollution prevention provisions
- *Migratory Birds Convention Act*
- *Species at Risk Act*

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## ECCC's Role in Nunavut

- Review development and remediation proposals for environmental impacts falling within ECCC's mandate
- Provide recommendations and expert advice to the Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Nunavut Water Board
- Enforce compliance with legislation that falls within ECCC's mandate

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## Context of ECCC's Review

- Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (AEM) has submitted an application to the Nunavut Water Board for a Type "A" Water Licence for the Meliadine Gold Project
- ECCC had a few outstanding issues from the Technical Meeting, but through discussions with AEM, these issues are now resolved
- Concerns were around water quality:
  - Effluent quality criteria for metals and other parameters
  - Management of total phosphorus entering Meliadine Lake
  - Study design for aquatic monitoring

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## Effluent Quality Criteria

- ECCC and AEM were able to agree upon most effluent quality criteria to put forward to the Nunavut Water Board
- Additional discussions were required to confirm effluent quality criteria for:
  - Total dissolved solids
  - Ammonia
  - Metals (Aluminum, Copper, Zinc)

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## Total Phosphorus

- ECCC's concern with total phosphorus was with increased productivity in the area of the discharge
- AEM provided information regarding Meliadine Lake's flushing rate and their proposed adaptive management actions

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## Under-Ice Water Quality Sampling

- ECCC had concerns with the lack of winter reference sampling during the under-ice period
- AEM provided information on how collected data will be evaluated to detect change and indicated that they have adaptive management in place

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## Conclusion

- Additional information on the discussions between AEM and ECCC can be found in AEM's letter to the Nunavut Water Board dated December 18, 2015
- ECCC would like to thank the Nunavut Water Board for the opportunity to participate in AEM's Type "A" Water Licence Application process

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## Thank you!

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