

ECCC's Intervention to the NWB Respecting the Meliadine Gold Project – Phase 1 Type “A” Water Licence Application



Executive Summary

Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (AEM, or the Proponent) submitted an application to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) for the Meliadine Gold Project - Phase 1 Type “A” Water Licence (2AM-MEL—) on May 20, 2015. The water licence is required to develop Phase 1 of the Meliadine Gold Mine, which involves developing the Tiriganiaq deposit (two open pits, one underground mine, and associated facilities). Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has participated in the Application review process, providing technical review comments to the NWB on October 5, 2015, and attending the Technical Meeting and Pre-Hearing Conference on October 14-15, 2015.

This submission summarizes the results of ECCC's technical review, and reflects ongoing discussions with AEM, and information and commitments provided by AEM throughout the review process.

As a result of discussions with the Proponent there are only few outstanding issues from the technical review. The following report outlines the areas where resolution was achieved and where further discussions with AEM were required to reach resolution, particularly with water quality issues. The issues discussed involved effluent quality criteria for metals and other parameters, management of total phosphorus entering Meliadine Lake, and the study design for aquatic monitoring. A table that summarizes ECCC's technical comments is attached as “Appendix A”. ECCC has also provided comments on the draft water licence proposed by AEM; see “Appendix B”. The recommendations presented are for consideration by the NWB and are designed to address outstanding concerns related to ECCC's mandate.

ECCC's specialist advice is provided based on our mandate, in the context of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, the pollution prevention provisions of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*. The Proponent should comply with the above-mentioned legislation during all phases and in all undertakings related to the project.