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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

File No.: **2AM-MEL1631/TR/B12**

December 18, 2019

Sara Savoie
Compliance Counselor
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
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Mirabel, Quebec, Canada J7N 1G9

Email: sara.savoie@agnicoeagle.com

RE: NWB Technical Review of the Agnico Eagle Mines Limited Updated Water Management Plan for the Meliadine Project; Water Licence No. 2AM-MEL1631-

Dear Ms. Savoie:

The Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) has completed a technical review of the updated *Water Management Plan, Version 8* (Plan) along with the *conceptual engineering drawings for Saline Pond 4 (SP4)*, provided to the Board on November 12, 2019 to fulfill the requirements of Part B, Item 12 of the Water Licence No. 2AM-MEL1631 (Licence).

The revised Plan included temporary adaptive measures for saline water management proposing to construct a temporary surface saline pond *SP4* within the footprint of approved Tiriganiaq Pit 1. The new saline pond *SP4* will replace the existing Saline Pond 2 (*SP2*), which currently receives the excess saline water from the Underground Mine and accommodates it until treatment or discharge to sea.

All information relevant to the proposed changes is available from the NWB's ftp site using the following link:

<ftp://ftp.nwb-oen.ca/registry/2%20MINING%20MILLING/2A/2AM%20-%20Mining/2AM-MEL1631%20Agnico/3%20TECH/B%20GENERAL/B12%20MGMT%20PLANS/Water%20MGMT%20Plan/>

The submission was distributed for a three (3) week public review with a deadline set at December 03, 2019. In correspondence dated November 29, 2019, the Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) indicated that they do not have any comments at this time. On December 04, 2019, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA or formerly known as CIRNAC) provided its correspondence with the Licensee and indicated that CIRNA is satisfied with the responses addressing CIRNA's questions and recommended to incorporate this information into the next update to the Water Management Plan.

On December 9, 2019, the NWB requested the Licensee to clarify a few aspects of the submitted Water Management Plan, which were addressed on December 13, 2019 confirming the following:

- *total waste rock volume to be removed is expected to be 305,393 m³;*
- *the location for temporary waste rock deposition between Tiriganiaq Pit 1 and Tiriganiaq Pit 2 (slightly to the south of their axes) is within the lease area;*
- *in order to ensure the capability to store runoff from a 1:100 wet freshet, stored volume in SP4 will be maintained below 207,000 m³ prior to freshet;*
- *Considering the expected groundwater inflows to the underground mine, application of the [Saline Water Treatment Plant] SWTP as a standalone management strategy will result in a net positive balance of saline water over an annual basis. The [Saline Effluent Treatment Plant] SETP will be applied to compensate for the difference, thus allowing the maintenance of an annual net-zero or net-negative saline water balance.*

After completing the technical review, the Board finds the updated *Water Management Plan, Version 8, August 2019*, along with the *conceptual engineering drawings for Saline Pond 4 (SP4)*, functional and generally satisfying the Licence requirements, and by copy of this letter has approved the above stated document through the Board Motion No. 2019-A1-011, dated December 18th, 2019, as required by Part B, Item 12 of the Licence.

The Board reminds the Licensee that all relevant Water Management Plan sections, Meliadine Groundwater Management Plan, Water Management Schematic Flow Sheet, along with other relevant documents and plans shall be updated to reflect the approved changes. The Board also notes that the above mentioned plans do not include a proper description of the newly constructed SETP, which shall be addressed in future submissions. All updated documents shall be included within the 2019 Annual Report submission.

Additionally, the Board reminds the Licensee that Part D, Item 1 of the Licence requires submission of the construction design report along with for-construction drawings for the NWB's approval at least thirty (30) days prior to construction.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 360-6338 (extension 29) or sergey.kuflevskiy@nwb-oen.ca, at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Sergey Kuflevskiy
Nunavut Water Board,
Technical Advisor

Cc: Distribution List – Meliadine