

File: 2AM-MEL1631/D1

January 26, 2026

Jade Robitaille
Compliance Counselor
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RE: Type A Water Licence No: 2AM-MEL1631 for the Meliadine Gold Project; Agnico Eagle Mines Limited; Design Report for CP8, Channels 13 and 14, and B7 North Thermal Berm, B7 West Thermal Berm and CP8 Thermal Berm.

Dear Ms. Robitaille:

On November 17, 2025, the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or the Board) received Design Report and drawings (Design Report or Report) from Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle or Licensee) titled Design Report for CP8, CP8 Thermal Berm, Channel 13, Channel 14, B7 North Thermal Berm, and B7 West Thermal, Meliadine Gold Mine, Nunavut, dated November 14, 2025. This notification is required under Part D, Item 1 of the type A Water Licence 2AM-MEL1631.

Agnico Eagle plans on expanding the existing Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) and construct additional Water Management Infrastructure (WMI) to manage runoff. This includes two water diversion channels (Channel 13 and Channel 14), a Collection Pond (CP) (CP8), and three thermal berms (CP8 Thermal Berm, B7 North Thermal Berm, and B7 West Thermal Berm).

The report states that Channels 13 and 14 are required to collect and divert the runoff water from the proposed TSF Expansion catchment area to CP3 and CP8, respectively. CP8 will collect and store runoff water from the TSF Expansion and temporarily store water during operation. A water pumping system will be installed in CP8 to transfer the water from CP8 to CP1, the main water attenuation pond at the Meliadine Mine. Clean rockfill material from the CP8 excavation, if classified as non-PAG and with no potential for ML, will be used to backfill the over excavated zones to develop channel bottoms with designed widths and gradients.

The B7 North Thermal Berm and the B7 West Thermal Berm are required to preserve the permafrost in the original ground below the centre of the berm, which will limit potential seepage from the berm foundation and prevent contact runoff water from flowing into the outside receiving environment.

Agnico Eagle further state that this construction would take place in the winter when the ground is frozen.

On November 18, 2025, the NWB distributed the Report for public review. Interested parties were invited to comment until December 16, 2025. The NWB received submissions from the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) on December 16, 2025.

Agnico Eagle responded to interveners' comments on January 8, 2026. ECCC confirmed on January 13, 2026 that their concerns were addressed followed by the KIA, who confirmed on January 23, 2026.

A summary of the submissions is provided below:

Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) December 16, 2025

1. The KIA recommend that once tailings deposition in the expanded TSF begins, CP8 should also be prioritized for discharge to Itivia Harbour.

Response: Agnico Eagle stated that “*CP8 will be dewatered to the WES03 open pit once tailings deposition begins in the expanded TSF. Water from WES03 will then be discharged via the waterline to Itivia Harbour.*”

2. The KIA inquired that “*The required pond storage capacity for CP8 is 64,000 m³. The design storage capacity for CP8 is 69,823 m³, which it states “provides 10% of the contingent storage capacity under Inflow Design Flood (IDF).” However, the current design storage capacity only provides 8% contingent storage capacity.*”

Response: Agnico Eagle apologized for any confusion caused and stated that “*The CP8 design capacity is 69,823 m³, which exceeds the 64,000 m³ IDF storage requirement by 5,823 m³. This represents approximately 9.1% contingency relative to the required IDF storage, which was rounded to ~10% in the report. If expressed as a fraction of the total provided capacity, the contingency equals ~8.3%.*”

3. The KIA requested Agnico Eagle to provide an updated Figure 3 which shows the location of the Open Talik relative to all the proposed infrastructure and provide comments on potential impact of saline groundwater related to the Open Talik on the proposed B7 West, B7 North and CP8 thermal berms.

Response: Agnico Eagle stated that “*The lateral extent of open taliks is limited to the deepest parts of the lake and varies with lake size, shape, and depth. For conservatism, the footprint of Lake B7 can be considered the maximum potential lateral extent of the open talik.*”

Figure 3 shows the locations of as-built boreholes within the planned footprint of B7 West, B7 North, and CP8 thermal berms. Borehole results (Appendix A) and observations of frozen material and bedrock confirm that these berms are found on permafrost, not talik. Readings from installed Ground Temperature Cables (GTC) by Tetra Tech (2025) further support the presence of permafrost beneath these structures.

Groundwater recharge and flow are driven by lake elevation differences (high-lake to low-lake). Based on its elevation, the B7 open talik is dominated by a deep groundwater flow regime towards Meliadine Lake.”

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) December 16, 2025

1. ECCC recommended that Agnico Eagle consider including monitoring programs and mitigation measures should the presence of excess ice in overburden soils become a problem after construction.

Response: Agnico Eagle stated that permafrost protection is one of the main considerations of design. The ice rich material is shallow (less than 2m) and will be removed from the footprints of these structures during the construction, this will remove much of the risk associated with this material. There is an access road along the channel on the downslope side which provides insulation and protection for the permafrost, keeping the foundation and any ice rich material frozen. Further Agnico Eagle stated that the monitoring recommendations within the design report are sufficient for the effective monitoring of the infrastructure.

2. ECCC recommended that Agnico Eagle:
 - a. clarify whether the CP8 pond in the Design Report replaces or is supplemental to the CP8 pond referred to in the Water Management Plan and Mine Water Balance and Water Quality Model;
 - b. describe how water management will be changed on site; and
 - c. update the Water Management Plan and the Water Balance and Water Quality Model to integrate the newly proposed water management infrastructure and incorporate changes to previously proposed infrastructure.

Response: Agnico Eagle stated that:

- a. *A revised Water Management Plan (v16) and Water Balance & Water Quality Model were submitted in support of the recently approved modification for Shallow Pump Underground Development within permafrost and water storage in pits. CP8, as presented in this design report, replaces the collection pond referenced in the previous Water Management Plan and Mine Water Balance & Water Quality Model (2024 Technical Report).*
- b. *Under the approved Water Licence 2AM-MEL1631 modification, CP8 (identified as CP2.5 in the application) will be dewatered to WES03 pit once tailings deposition begins in the expanded TSF. Water from WES03 will be discharged via the waterline to Itivia Harbour. Changes to site-wide water management resulting from the removal*

of CP8 (previously in Water Management Plan v15B) are detailed in the updated Water Management Plan (v16) submitted with the modification application.

- c. *Updates to proposed water management infrastructure, including new installations and revisions to previously planned structures, are outlined in the Water Management Plan (v16) and the Meliadine Mine Modification Water Balance & Water Quality Model Technical Report (2025). The next Water Management Plan submission (v17) is scheduled for March 2026 to accompany the 2025 Annual Report.*
- 3. ECCC recommended that Agnico Eagle explain why the design criteria for the storage capacity of the CP8 collection pond, as described in the Design Report, differ from the criteria specified for similar-sized collection ponds in the Water Management Plan.

Response: Agnico Eagle confirmed that consistent criteria were applied to all CPs. Designing based on 3/7 of a 1:100 wet-year spring freshet is more conservative than the criteria discussed in the Water Management Plan. The CP8 as-built report and future pond design reports will use the same comparison as for previous CP2, CP3, CP4, CP5, CP6 ponds design. The Water Management plan will also be updated this way to ensure consistency.

- 4. ECCC recommended that Agnico Eagle describe how they plan to decommission the CP8 collection pond, as described in the Design Report. If the pond will continue to hold water in closure and post-closure, they should discuss predicted surface water quality and how the pond will be connected with other surface water flow paths in post-closure.

Response: Agnico Eagle stated that “*During active-closure phase, TSF contact water reporting to CP8, CP3, CP4, and CP5 sumps, along with TSF runoff to Channel 1, will be pumped to the underground void for permanent storage. Once surface contact water meets aquatic guideline criteria, flows will revert to pre-mining drainage patterns where feasible.*

During post-closure phase, CP8 will naturally drain to Lake B7, which will subsequently drain to the Tiri Pits lake system. The updated model forecasts no parameters of concern for Lakes B7 and Tiri Pits in accordance with aquatic guidelines.”

Copies of all documents received in support of the Report can be accessed through the NWB's Public Registry and FTP site using the following Link:

[Link to all submissions for this Design Report](#)

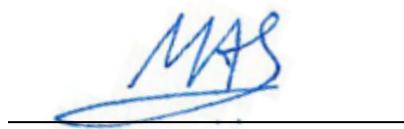
NWB's Review and Decision

The Licensee is advised that the Board's review of this document is a verification that the proposed activity is consistent with the existing terms and conditions of the Licence and more specifically with Part D, Item 1. It should be noted that the Board's acceptance is NOT intended or offered as any representation regarding the suitability of the plans nor third-party verification of the design, construction, planning or engineering discussed in the document.

Further, in keeping with Part D, Item 3 and 4 of the Licence's terms and conditions, the submission of post-construction information, including as-built plans and drawings, shall remain applicable to this authorization.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please contact the NWB Licensing Department by email to licensing@nwb-oen.ca or by phone at (867) 360-6338.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MAS", is placed above a solid horizontal line.

Mohammad Ali Shaikh
Technical Advisor,
Nunavut Water Board

as/rqd

Cc: Distribution List – Meliadine, Kivalliq