September 9th, 2016

Karen Kharatyan
A/Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
P.O Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Re: Agnico Eagle Mines – Meliadine Division Response to D-CP1 and D-CP5 Final Design and Construction Drawings Recommendation

Dear Mr. Kharatyan,

As requested, the following information and comments are intended to address the recommendation outlined in the below letter:

- INAC – September 2, 2016*, 2AM-MEL1631 – Construction plans of Dikes D-CP1 and D-CP5 at Meliadine Gold Mine – Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited (AEM).*

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

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Senior Environmental Compliance Technician

1) **Source :** Tetra Tech Design Report for D-CP1 Section 3.8 and D-CP5 Section

Comment: Section 3.8 and Section 3.7 Construction and Operation Schedules of Design report for D-CP1 and D-CP5. These sections respectively state the following "Complete the remaining construction of D-CP1 by May 2017 before spring freshet of 2017" in the case of design report for D-CP1 and "Complete the remaining construction of D-CP5 by May 2017 before spring freshet of 2017" in the case of design report for D-CP5.

Recommendation: INAC recommends that the construction and operation schedule accommodate an early spring thaw event, as well INAC would like to know what measures are in place to accommodate such an event.

Agnico Eagle Mines response:

Information provided in the Meliadine Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) indicates the average start date for spring freshet is June 11. Based on the Project construction schedule, construction of D-CP1 and D-CP5 will be completed in April 2017 and November 2016 respectively.

Construction of D-CP1 is planned in two phases: during the first phase (September – November 2016), the liner will be tied into the key trench and raised along the core of the dike. As soon as the coldest period of winter is completed (early March 2017 at the latest), the second phase will follow with the completion of the placement of the material on the upstream and downstream shells of the dike. D-CP1 will be completed in April 2017. Construction of D-CP5 includes one phase which will end in November 2016.

In addition, after Phase 1 of construction, based on the height of the dike at 66.0 metres and original ground at approximately 64.0 metres, we will have an increased capacity of 578,000 cubic metres of water at an elevation of 66.0 metres as per Table 3.5 of the design report. The dewatering of Lake H17, including the transfer of Lake A54, will have a water elevation of approximately 63.5 metres.

Based on this additional capacity we will easily manage an early freshet if it does occur prior to June 2017 or completion of the D-CP1 construction in April 2017.

Finally, as per the design we will have a collection ditch at the downstream toe of the dike, with a sump to transfer water to the upstream side of the dike in the attenuation pond footprint of CP1. Also, we will have silt curtains on the downstream of the structure during construction.

2) **Source :** Design Report for D-CP1 Section 3.3 and D-CP5 Section 3.2

Comment: Both sections state the following:
"After dewatering of Lake H17, the water from Lake A54 will be pumped to dewatered lake H17 to facilitate construction of Dike D-CP5. The pumping station in H6 will remain in place in October to manage water during construction of D-CP1".

In this context it appears as though Lake A54 will be dewatered and that this water will be pumped to H17 before the construction of Dike – D-CP1 is completed.

Recommendation: AEM should provide clarification on the timing of construction of Dike D-CP1; specifically will the Dike be completed prior to receiving water from A54.

Agnico Eagle Mines response:

The dewatering process of Lake H17 is currently ongoing and will end by mid-September 2016. D-CP1 construction begins in late-September 2016. The capacity created by dewatering H17 is estimated to be over than 88,000 m^3. We plan to transfer Lake A54 which has a volume of 40,000 cubic metres, which is less than the capacity that has been created by dewatering H17. The water in H17 will be land locked and therefore not migrate towards the construction alignment of DCP1. Therefore the water pumped from A54 Lake dewatering will remain within the existing H17 basin before and during construction of D-CP1.