



August 31st, 2020

Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU
X0B 1J0

Subject: Comments on 2AM-MEL1631 Design Report for Saline Effluent Treatment Plant (SETP) Upgrade and Operation & Maintenance Manual

Dear Mr. Dwyer,

Please find attached Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle)'s response to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)'s follow-up comments on the Design Report for the Saline Effluent Treatment Plant (SETP) Upgrade and Operation & Maintenance Manual..

Agnico Eagle is submitting a revised Design Report for the Saline Effluent Treatment Plant (SETP) Upgrade reflecting these responses and remains available to further discuss if required.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Ternes".

Terry Ternes
General Supervisor, Environment
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Comment 1 ECCC

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) raised questions about the process flow diagram provided in Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd (the Proponent) Saline Effluent Treatment Plant (SETP) Upgrade report. To address this, the Proponent provided an amended process flow diagram and responded:

...Also, for clarification, various contact water sources at site – including Underground and Surface Contact Water – are combined, at times, to minimize overall site footprint and to support long term environmental management at site. The strategy of TDS attenuation will be the primary process for managing TDS concentrations. The reference to the “reactor” in the SETP design report has been updated to reflect this concentrations.

ECCC still has questions about overall contact water management and treatment flow diagram, and met with the Proponent on August 13, 2020 to ask for clarification. Based on our August 13th discussion, the Proponent has agreed to provide an amended process flow diagram and water balance flow diagram, accompanied by text clarifying the inputs to the SETP for treatment of contact water from non-saline sources.

Agnico Eagle Answer:

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited has met with ECCC on August 27th, 2020 to present a revised flowsheet. Based on these discussion, Agnico Eagle is submitting a revised SETP Design Report including the flowsheet noted above.



CIRNAC: Treatment Objectives of SETP: Total Dissolved Solids

CIRNAC notes that AEM intends, when necessary, to reduce the TDS of saline groundwater by dilution with treated surface contact water from CP1 only, rather than treatment via a "TDS adjustment reactor".

CIRNAC would like to remind AEM that *Amendment #1 of NIRB Project Certificate #006* authorizes the discharge of only saline effluent (salty or saline groundwater) from the Tiriganiaq Underground Mine into the marine environment at Melvin Bay near Rankin Inlet. It does not appear to include any surface water in the effluent. Should the proposed approach for saline effluent TDS reduction fall outside of the scope of the approved project, appropriate approvals from other authorities and regulatory agencies would be required.

Agnico Eagle Answer:

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited acknowledges CIRNAC's comment, however it is Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's view that the SETP Upgrade Design Report is still within the scope of the approved project. Agnico Eagle refers CIRNAC to the revised SETP Design Report with additional clarification on the treatment sequence.