Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Prairie & Northern Region
5019 52nd Street, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 2310
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7

ECCC File: 6100 000 012/015
NWB File: 2AM-MEL1631

Thursday May 14, 2026

via email at: richard.dwyer@nwb-oen.ca

Richard Dwyer
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Dear Richard Dwyer:

RE: 2AM-MEL1631 – Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. – Meliadine Gold Mine – Tailings Storage Facility Design Update Report – ECCC Comment

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has reviewed the information submitted to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) by Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. ("the Proponent") regarding ECCC's review comments on the above-mentioned design report.

ECCC provides expert information and knowledge to project assessments on subjects within the department's mandate, including climate change, air quality, water quality, biodiversity, environmental emergencies preparedness and responses. This work includes reviewing proponent characterization of environmental effects and proposed mitigation measures. We provide advice to decision-makers regarding a proponent's characterization of environmental effects, the efficacy of their proposed mitigation activities, and may suggest additional mitigation measures. Any comments received from ECCC in this context does not relieve the proponent of its obligations to respect all applicable federal legislation.

The following comment is provided:

1. Water management on west side of tailings storage facility

References:

Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) Design Update Report Meliadine Gold Mine, Nunavut, Revision 01 (Tetra Tech Canada Inc.; April 2, 2026)
-Section 10.0 Water Management

Design Report for CP8, CP8 Thermal Berm, Channel 13 and Channel 14, B7North Thermal Berm, and B7West Thermal Berm, Meliadine Gold Mine, Nunavut (Tetra Tech Canada Inc.; November 14, 2025)

RE: Meliadine Mine CP8, CP8 Thermal Berm, Channel 13 and Channel 14 Design Report and Drawings for 2AM-MEL1631 water licence (Agnico Eagle Meliadine; January 8, 2026)
- Agnico Eagle Response to ECCC-2: CP8 Collection Pond

Meliadine Extension: Geochemical Characterization and Source Term Report (Lorax Environmental Services; March 1, 2022)

Comment:

The water management infrastructure associated with the tailings storage facility (TSF) expansion described in the Design Update Report was reviewed separately in the Design Report submitted in November 2025. In response to review comment ECCC-2 on the November 2025 Design Report, the Proponent provided the following clarification: "*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*." This does not correspond with the information presented on water management in the current TSF Design Update Report (p. 22), which states: "*Runoff and seepage from the western part of the TSF extension will be collected in CP3 or CP8, via Channel13 or Channel14. Water collected in CP3 and CP8 will then be pumped to the partially drained natural pond H13, from where it will flow through Channel1 and Culvert3 into CP1*." Water from CP1 is discharged to Meliadine Lake following treatment.

It is not clear if runoff and seepage from the western part of the TSF expansion will only be routed to CP1 until tailings deposition begins, or if there has been a change in water management strategy. As indicated in the TSF Design Update Report and the 2022 Geochemical Characterization and Source Term Report, TSF runoff and seepage is expected to have elevated concentrations of several parameters, including ammonia. It is critical that the plant treating contact water from the TSF prior to its discharge to the aquatic environment be equipped to adequately remove contaminants.

ECCC recommendation:

ECCC recommends the Proponent:

a) clarify where water from CP8 will be pumped to and ultimately disposed of once tailings deposition begins at the TSF expansion; and

b) confirm that the plant treating water from CP8 and CP3 will be equipped to sufficiently reduce contaminant concentrations prior to discharge.

If you need more information, please contact Erik Allen at Erik.Allen@ec.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Allen, Erik

Digitally signed by: Allen, Erik
DN: CN = Allen, Erik C = CA O = GC OU = EC-EC
Date: 2026.05.14 15:46:28 -04'00'

Erik Allen
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer

cc: Orlagh O'Sullivan, A/Head, Environmental Assessment North (NT and NU)