

**File: 2AM-MEL1631/TR/F9** 

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**Subject: Operation & Maintenance Manual Sewage Treatment Plant;** 

Type "A" Water Licence 2AM-MEL1631, Meliadine Gold Project, Agnico-Eagle

Mines Ltd.

Dear Ms. Turmel and Mr. Quesnel:

The Nunavut Water Board ("NWB") received from Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (Agnico Eagle or Licensee) on December 15, 2016 the Operation & Maintenance Manual Sewage Treatment Plant (O&M Manual or Manual) for Board approval as required under Part F, Item 9 of the Water Licence 2AM-MEL1631.

As stated by Agnico Eagle the O&M Manual was prepared in accordance with the "Guidelines for the Preparation of an Operation and Maintenance Manual for Sewage and Solid Waste Disposal Facilities in the Northwest Territories, 1996". It is also indicated that the Manual has been adapted for the use of a mechanical sewage treatment facility, and the Manual is a component of the Meliadine Environmental Management System. The main objectives of this Manual are summarized as follows:

- 1. To define the location, design and operating procedures to be used in the treatment of sewage generated at the Meliadine Project; and
- 2. To provide monitoring requirements for the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP).

The O&M Manual was distributed for a thirty (30) day public review and comments on December 16, 2016. On January 4, 2017, the Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) advised the NWB that it has no comments at this time. Comments were received from Indigenous and

Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) on December 16, 2016. In its comment INAC stated that the treated sewage effluent is to be discharged to CP1 and then treated again before ultimately reaching Meliadine Lake. INAC recommends that because treated sewage effluent criteria does not seem to be contained in the licence thus far, parameters pertaining to sewage effluent, such as Faecal coliform, ammonia, Total Suspended Solids, BOD5, total phosphorous, toxicity, oil & grease, pH, etc.) should be monitored and acceptable criteria met before this water/effluent is released to Meliadine Lake.

The NWB generally concurs with INAC comments, and advise the Licensee that parameters pertaining to sewage effluent are not specifically included within the final discharge point criteria as during the licensing phase the NWB have assumed that sewage effluent, discharging from STP CP1 is to be already adequately treated by STP. Although the Board notes that on a weekly basis, many STP performance parameters will be monitored, however the Board finds that more information regarding the performance capacity or expected level of sewage treatment could have been provided. The Board would like to see the STP performance parameters' expected concentrations for the treated sewage effluent to be discharged to CP1.

While the Board finds the O&M Manual functional and generally satisfying Licence requirements, and by copy of this letter <u>has approved the O&M Manual through the Board Motion No. 2016-A1-012</u>, dated January 17, 2017, as required by Part F, Item 9 of Licence, however, the Licensee <u>shall be required to submit an updated Manual in the form of an Addendum within the 2016 Annual Report to address comments stated above.</u>

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

Yours truly,

Karén Kharatyan A/Manager of Licensing / Sr. Technical Advisor

cc: Distribution List - Meliadine