



Indigenous and  
Northern Affairs Canada

Affaires autochtones  
et du Nord Canada

Water Resources  
Resource Management Directorate  
Nunavut Regional Office  
P.O. Box 100  
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Your file- Votre reference

Our file-Notre reference  
IQALUIT-# 1107405

November 3, 2016

Karen Kharatyan  
Manager of Licensing  
Nunavut Water Board  
P.O Box 119  
Gjoa Haven, NU, X0E 1J0

*Sent via email: [licensing@nwb-oen.ca](mailto:licensing@nwb-oen.ca)*

Dear Mr. Kharatyan,

**Re: Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's Completeness Review of Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Application for Meadowbank Gold Mine Whale Tail Pit Project (New Type A Water Licence)**

Thank you for your October 3, 2016 invitation for written representation on the above referenced water licence. A memorandum is provided for Nunavut Water Board's consideration. Comments and recommendations have been provided pursuant to the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's mandated responsibility under the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and the *Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Act*.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself by telephone at 867-975-4282 or email at [ian.parsons@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca](mailto:ian.parsons@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca) or Amjad Tariq at 867-222-1008 or email at [Amjad.Tariq@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca](mailto:Amjad.Tariq@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca) for further information.

Sincerely,

Ian Parsons  
Regional Coordinator

Amjad Tariq  
Regulatory and Science Advisor

Encl:

cc. Scott Burgess, A/Manager, Water Resources, INAC  
Erik Allain, Manager of Field Operations, INAC

# Memorandum

**To:** Karen Kharatyan, A/Manager of Licensing, Nunavut Water Board

**From:** Amjad Tariq, Regulatory and Science Advisor, Water Resources, INAC  
Ian Parsons, Regional Coordinator, Water Resources, INAC

**Date:** November 03, 2016

**Re:** **Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's Completeness Review of Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Application for Meadowbank Gold Mine Whale Tail Pit Project (New Type A Water Licence)**

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## A. BACKGROUND

On October 03, 2016, the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) provided notification of Agnico Eagle Mine Limited's (AEM's) application to amend their Type A water licence 2AM-MEA1525 for Meadowbank Gold Mine Project. AEM has proposed to extend the Meadowbank mine to include development of resources from the Whale Tail Pit at its Amaruq property. The property is a 408 km<sup>2</sup> site located on Inuit Own Land, approximately 50 km northwest of Meadowbank Mine. The Whale Tail Pit project is expected to generate approximately 46.7 million tonnes (Mt) of waste rock, 8.3 Mt of tailings and require moving 5.8 Mt of overburden over its lifetime.

AEM filed the licence amendment application at the same time as they requested the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) reconsider the terms and conditions of the existing NIRB Project Certificate for the Meadowbank Gold Mine Project, i.e., Project Certificate No. 004<sup>1</sup>. The NIRB determined that it was not appropriate to consider the Whale Tail Pit project proposal as an amendment to the existing Meadowbank Gold Mine Project Certificate. The proposal is now subject to a review by the NIRB under the terms of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*<sup>1</sup>.

According to the NWB, there is a significant connection between the existing Water Licence (2AM-MEA1525) for Meadowbank project and aspects of the additional water use and waste deposit activities associated with Meadowbank Whale Tail Pit project<sup>1</sup>. The Board also notes the need for an amendment to water licence (2AM-MEA1525) to reflect the additional water use and waste deposit activities associated with processing additional ore volumes originating from the Whale Tail Pit project<sup>1</sup>. However, The NWB has concluded that the scope of water use and deposit of waste at the Whale Tail Pit project site requires a separate new Type A licence to cover the construction, operation and reclamation activities<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>Letter from David Hohnstein, NWB to Stephane Robert and Ryan Vanengen, AEM., October 03, 2016 (IQA # 1110490)

Interested parties were invited to review the scope of the information provided in the application for its completeness and to identify any deficiencies requiring additional information from the applicant.

In correspondence with the NWB, the NWB provided clarification that at this stage only a high level completeness review is required and any and all other technical comments including information requests could be made during the technical review stage.

The NWB requested the interested parties submit their comments by November 3rd, 2016.

## B. RESULT OF COMPLETENESS REVIEW

The following comment has been prepared as part of the completeness review process for the above mentioned application. Detailed technical comments, including information requests will be submitted as part of the Board's technical review phase

<b>Regulatory Authority:</b>	<b>NWB</b>	<b>Information Request No.</b>	<b>INAC1</b>
<b>Information Request from:</b>	Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada		
<b>Information Request for:</b>	Agnico Eagle Mine Limited		
<b>General Issue:</b>	A Complete Set of Standalone Management Plans for a New Water Licence		
<b>References:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 2- Environmental Overview and Type A Water Licence Whale Tail Pit Project, Meadowbank Division, June 2016 (IQA # 1109229) Table 2.2-1: List of Monitoring, Mitigation, and Management Plans Page 2-25 to 2-27 Pdf page 53-55</li> <li>Volume 8- Monitoring, Mitigation and Management Plans, Whale Tail Pit Project, Meadowbank Division, June 2016 (IQA # 1109230) pdf pages 29, 262, 326, 481, 543, 643, 672, 712, 916, 936, 953, 1041, 1110, 1288.</li> </ul>		
<b>Rationale:</b>	<p>The proponent has submitted an application to amend its Type A water licence (2AM-MEA1525) to include Whale Tail Pit project under the existing licence for the Meadowbank mine. In order to support the application, the proponent has provided the existing approved management plans for Meadowbank gold mine (Vault, Portage and Goose area). In addition, 'addendums' to some existing plans have also been included to cover Whale Tail Pit project. The plans for which addendums have been provided are as follows,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational Acid Rock Drainage, Metal Leaching, Sampling and Testing Plan, November 2013), Addendum, version WT, June 2016</li> <li>Mine Waste Rock and Tailings Management Plan - March 2016, Addendum, version WT, June 2016</li> <li>Water Quality Monitoring and Management Plan for Dike</li> </ul>		

	<p>Construction Dewatering, 2010, Addendum, Version WT, June 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landfill Design and Management Plan, March 2013, Addendum, Version WT, June 2016</li> <li>• 2015 Water Management Report and Plan, March 2016, Addendum, Version WT, June 2016</li> <li>• Water Quality and Flow Monitoring Plan 2016, Addendum, Version WT, June 2016</li> <li>• Ammonia Management Plan, March 2016, Addendum, Version WT, June 2016</li> <li>• Meadowbank and Whale Tail Bulk Fuel Storage Facilities: Environmental Performance Monitoring Plan, June 2014, Addendum, June 2016</li> <li>• Emergency Response Plan, November 2014, Addendum, Version WT, June 2016</li> <li>• Hazardous Materials Management Plan, October 2013, Addendum Meadowbank Mine Site, Whale Tail Pit Site, Baker Lake Facilities, Version WT, June 2016</li> <li>• Spill Contingency Plan, March 2016, Addendum, Version WT, June 2016</li> <li>• Air Quality and Dust fall Monitoring Plan, March 2015, Addendum, Version WT, June 2016</li> <li>• Core Receiving Environment Monitoring Program (CREMP), November 2015, Addendum, June 2016</li> <li>• Groundwater Monitoring Plan, September 2015, Addendum, Version WT, June 2016</li> <li>• Terrestrial Ecosystem Management Plan, December 2006, (Appendix A, Appendix B, Appendix C, Appendix D ), Addendum, WT, June 2016</li> <li>• Archaeological Management Plan Agnico Eagle Mines: Meadowbank Division - Whale Tail Pit and Haul Road, Addendum, March 2016</li> <li>• Interim Whale Tail Pit Closure and Reclamation Plan, January 2014, Addendum, Version WT, June 2016.</li> </ul> <p>INAC notes that in accordance with the NIRB and NWB determinations, the Whale Tail Pit project will be treated as a separate (new) project requiring a new project certificate and Type A water licence. In principle, a new (separate) set of all management plans exclusively prepared for the Whale Tail Pit project should be available to the Board for review.</p> <p>INAC recommends the applicant provide a separate set of stand-alone management plans to the Board exclusively for the Whale Tail Pit project in support of the new Type A water licence application.</p>
<b>Information Request:</b>	AEM is to provide a set of management plans exclusively for the Whale Tail Pit project to support the new Type A water licence application.