AGNICO EAGLE

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Dear Mr. Hack

The following information is intended to address the questions from your email received July 10 and following our discussions today. This information also relates to the management of non-contact water at the site.

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

Regards

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Environment Superintendent
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819-759-3555 ext 4606980

Cc: Jeremy Fraser, CIRNAC
Assol Kubeisinova, NWB
Karen Kharatyan, NWB

Responses

1. It is not clear if the water in the Whale Tail North Basin can be classified as non-contact water, as the Whale Tail North Basin and its surrounding area are within the mine site footprint and there have been various mining related activities being carried out that may impact the quantity and quality of the water flowing to the North Basin, why do you suggest this water is non-contact water;

- *The water management strategy is identified in Agnico's Water Management Plan. It outlines that during the dewatering phase of Whale Tail North, water from mining activities are intercepted and collected in various ponds. The contact water from these structures around sthe site were managed in a manner to prevent mixing of the water from the original Whale Tail North basin and site water.*

  During this dewatering phase, that is currently ongoing, the contact water from the mining activities are collected in the footprint of the pit, previously referred to as Quarry 1. Once dewatering of Whale Tail North has concluded, a small portion of the footprint of Whale Tail North will then act as an attenuation pond for all of the contact water on site.

2. Can AEM justify quantitatively or semi-quantitatively (i.e., with data or via water balance calculation) why this request is necessary. What problems arose that the current set-up is insufficient? Is it just the amount of water this year or did your current set-up encounter problems.

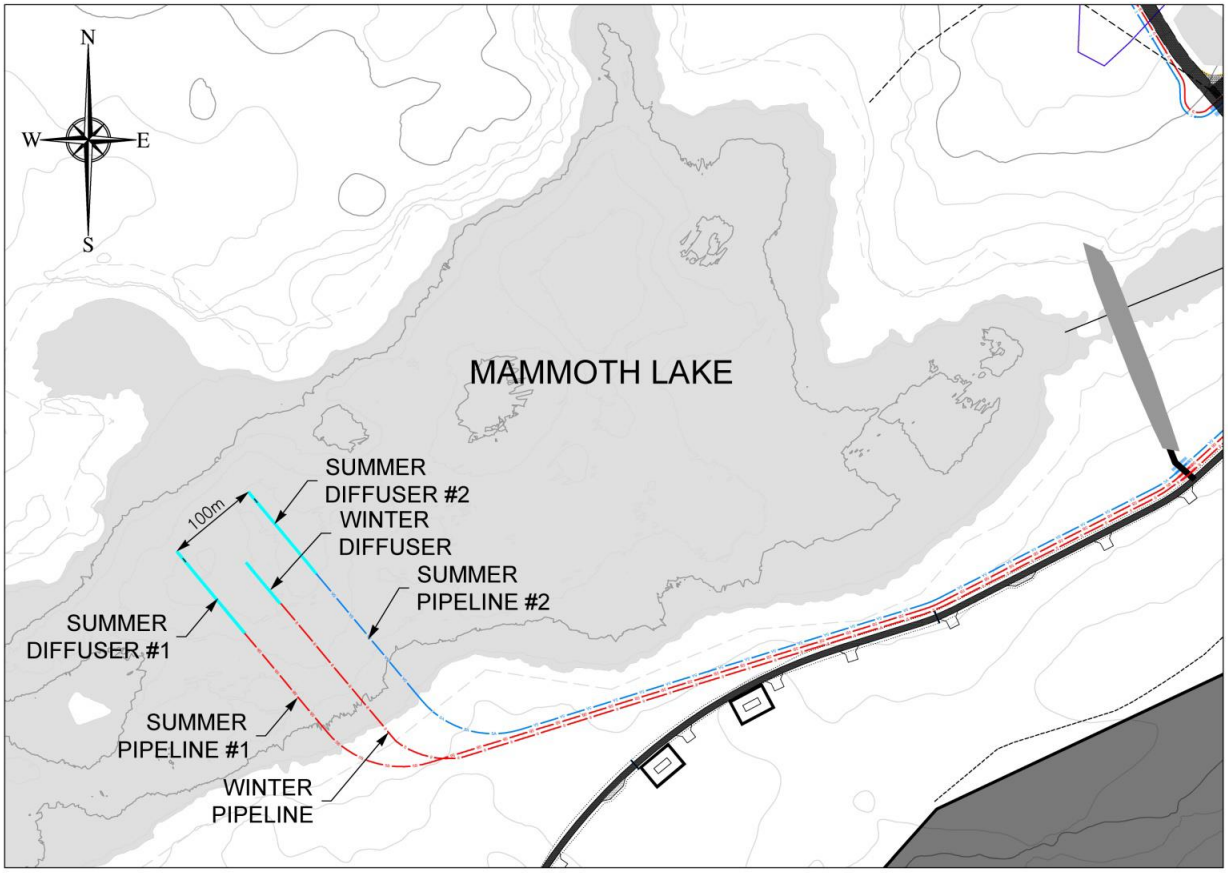
- *The actual water volumes captured by the site, primarily spring rainfall, are higher than predicted volumes. In addition, the volume of dewatering of Whale Tail North via the Water Treatment Plant has not attained its planned capacity as there are restrictions in the piping and pumping system that remain under investigation. As such, the actual volume of water pumped is lower than predicted design criteria.*

3. Can AEM also provide the relevant information of the request: for example, do they intend to deploy both diffusers at the same time?

- *The diffusors are already deployed and would be used at the same time.*

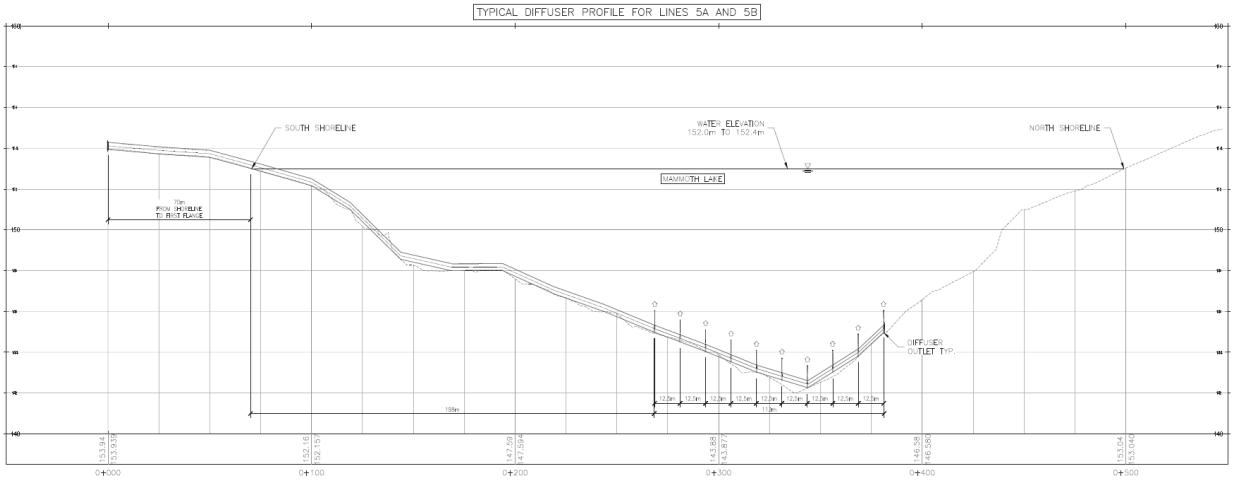
where will the new diffuser be located,

- *The locations of the diffusers were presented in the 60 days notice that was sent on February 11th 2019. Please see attached map for reference.*



what is the water depth of the new location?

- *The average water depth is approximately 7 metres as per the February 11th 60 day notice.*



how much volume of water will be discharged at the new location and at what speed?

- *The total volume water to be discharges is 2,300,000 cubic metres. Based on the design of the diffusers we are anticipating 1600 cubic metres per hour. We may be able to increase this based on water quality. We are anticipating approximately 50 days or until we maintain steady state as per predicted volumes and precipitation.*

and how long will the discharge be at the new location?

- *The new location would be used for Whale Tail North Dewatering until the dewatering has concluded.*

If the current set-up is the only option, what are the ramifications?

- *If we do not use both diffusers we could impact the integrity of the infrastructure. As both diffusers are approved and planned this adaptive management strategy we are presenting will minimize this effect.*

Is it just the amount of time in dewatering/ or are there other concerns?

- *We need to ensure we can meet our timeline to dewater this unplanned precipitation that occurred in June.*

Why does AEM need to use both diffuser options?

- *This is for adaptive management mitigation for the additional water that accumulated from the unplanned precipitation event.*

What are the major concerns that is leading to this considerations from AEM?

- *Major concern is related to high water levels and high volumes water that have a high potential impact on the integrity of key infrastructure.*

4. It is not clear if the same sampling points will be able to demonstrate that the established criteria in the Water License will be met. Can you provide certainty that the sampling will provide an accurate representation of what is in the water.

- *The dewatering of Whale Tail North has been ongoing since March 2019 and has met the established criteria in Part F section 4 of the Water Licence. The sampling occurs at the last point of control in the pipe and is representative of what is being discharge.*