



December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Richard Dwyer  
Manager of Licensing  
Nunavut Water Board

**Re: 2AM-MEA1530/2AM-WTP1830 Meadowbank Complex Core Receiving Environment Monitoring Program (CREMP) Plan Update**

Dear Mr. Dwyer,

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited - Meadowbank Complex is writing to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) to provide an updated Core Receiving Environment Monitoring Program (CREMP) Plan for approval under Type A Water Licence 2AM-MEA1530 and 2AM-WTP1830. Section 1.1 of the updated CREMP Plan provide an overview of the changes and Section 2.3.5 presented more in detail the proposed changes to the sampling strategy to be implemented in 2022.

The CREMP Plan outlines the strategy for monitoring changes in the receiving environment at Meadowbank, Whale Tail, and Baker Lake study areas as per the Type A Water License for Meadowbank (2AM-MEA1530) and Whale Tail (2AM-WTP1830). The last substantial update to the CREMP Plan was completed in 2015 when Meadowbank was in the active mining phase and Whale Tail was in the exploration phase. The CREMP 2021 Plan Update aligns the monitoring strategy with the current state of operations.

The CREMP is an adaptive program, meaning results from previous monitoring cycles or changes in the scope of the development are used to make informed decisions on how to effectively monitor changes in the aquatic environment caused by mining activities. After reviewing the multi-year dataset for Meadowbank and Baker Lake, two modifications to the sampling strategy are proposed for the CREMP starting in 2022. First, winter water sampling is no longer recommended in Third Portage Lake east basin (TPE), north basin (TPN), and Wally Lake (WAL) now that several years have passed since discharge occurred to each lake (i.e., 2014 for TPN; 2017 for WAL). Second, long-term benthic invertebrate community monitoring at TPN (2006), WAL (2006), and Baker Lake (2008) indicates the communities are stable and healthy relative to baseline and reference conditions. Reducing the frequency of monitoring from annually to once every 3 years is recommended. If adopted, the next benthic invertebrate community monitoring program at TPN, WAL, and Baker Lake would occur in August 2023, coinciding with the timing of sediment coring.

Agnico Eagle want to reiterate that the proposed changes to the frequency of monitoring at the Meadowbank project lakes and Baker Lake are based on a robust long-term data set that shows water quality is stable and lower trophic level communities are healthy. No changes to the monitoring strategy for the Whale Tail Pit study area lakes or Second Portage Lake are recommended at this time.

Should you have any questions about the proposed changes to the CREMP Plan, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

**Agnico Eagle Mines Limited – Meadowbank Complex**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alexandre Lavallee', with a stylized, overlapping loop structure.

Alexandre Lavallee  
Environment and Critical Infrastructures Superintendent  
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, Meadowbank Complex