



July 4th, 2022

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

Re: 2AM-MEA1530 & 2AM-WTP1830 Agnico Eagle Mines – Responses to Core Receiving Environment Monitoring Program (CREMP) Plan Update April 2022 Comments

Dear Mr. Dwyer,

As requested, the following responses are intended to address the comments made in the below correspondence:

- June 17, 2022 - Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada ; (CREMP) 2021 Plan Update for water licences 2AM-MEA1530 and 2AM-WTP1830.

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

Regards,

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited – Meadowbank Complex

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexandre Lavallee".

Alexandre Lavallee
Environment and Critical Infrastructures Superintendent
alexandre.lavallee@agnicoeagle.com
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, Meadowbank Complex

1 CIRNAC Comments

CIRNAC would like to draw your attention to a contradictory statement that AEM have included in the Revisions to the CREMP 2022 Plan Update:

- a. CIRNAC confirms that AEM correctly stated CIRNAC's recommendations to the NWB on the 2022 CREMP Plan Update, in its cover email to the NWB.
- b. In Section 1 of the updated CREMP Plan, AEM misrepresented CIRNAC's recommendations.

CIRNAC did not put forward any recommendations on Baker Lake. However, for clarification, CIRNAC recommends that benthic invertebrate monitoring be conducted annually in all applicable sampling stations under Water Licences 2AM-MEA1530 and 2AM-WTP1830 to show consistency in data collection.

CIRNAC stands by its initial recommendations to the NWB that AEM:

1. Continue winter water sampling at Third Portage Lake North Basin (TPN) and East Basin (TPE) and Wally Lake (WAL);
2. Continue benthic invertebrates monitoring annually for sampling stations at Meadowbank site, i.e. Second Portage, TPE, TPN and WAL.

Agnico Eagle's Response:

The study design submitted by Agnico Eagle in December 2021 provided rationale to reduce monitoring in some areas of the CREMP. Based on CIRNAC comments, received on February and March 2022, Agnico Eagle reviewed the CREMP (April 2022). The initial reduction in monitoring proposed were removed and the plan was modified to accept CIRNAC's recommendations:

- Continue winter water sampling at Third Portage Lake North Basin (TPN) and East Basin (TPE) and Wally Lake (WAL)
- Continue benthic invertebrates monitoring annually for sampling stations at Meadowbank site, i.e. Second Portage, TPE, TPN and WAL

Agnico Eagle is under the impression that the recommendations made by CIRNAC pertaining to the benthic invertebrate monitoring on Baker Lake were not misrepresented. Throughout the consultation process regarding the plan update, CIRNAC did not bring any concerns with modifying the benthic invertebrate community monitoring in Baker Lake from annually to every three (3) years to Agnico Eagle's attention.

Section 1 of the CREMP Plan Update has been revised to remove the following reference: *'The proposed change was reviewed by Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA), and Environment and Climate Change Canada*

(ECCC). None of the agencies expressed concerns with moving to a 3-year cycle for monitoring the benthic invertebrate community.'

Based on the extensive data available for benthic invertebrate monitoring at Baker Lake, Agnico Eagle maintains the revised sampling strategy proposed within the April 2022 CREMP Plan Update. This modification to the CREMP in Baker Lake is supported by scientific and robust long-term data set of 13 consecutive years that show barge-related activities are not impacting water quality, sediment quality, or the health of the phytoplankton and benthic invertebrate communities in Baker Lake.