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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

**File: 2AM-MEA1530/B13
2AM-WTP1830/B13**

July 13, 2022

Jamie Quesnel
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RE: Licences Nos: 2AM-WTP1830 and 2AM-MEA1530 Type “A”; Whale Tail Pit Project, Meadowbank Mine Project, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited; Core Receiving Environment Monitoring Program (CREMP) 2022 Plan Update

Dear Jamie Quesnel and Alexandre Lavallee:

The Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) received from Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle or Licensee) on December 23, 2021 the *Core Receiving Environment Monitoring Program (CREMP) 2021 Plan Update* dated December 22, 2021 (2021 CREMP) as the requirement of Part B, Item 13 of Water Licence No: 2AM-MEA1530 (Meadowbank Licence) and Part B, Item 13 of Water Licence No: 2AM-WTP1830 (Whale Tail Licence).

On December 23, 2021, the NWB distributed the 2021 CREMP for public review with the deadline for comments set for January 31, 2022. On January 25, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) requested an extension of the deadline to February 21, 2022. On January 25 and 31, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA), respectively, stated they had no comments. On February 14, 2022, CIRNA provided the following feedback:

- Winter sampling is recommended to be continued at Third Portage Lake North Basin, East Basin, and Wally Lake for the duration of the mine operations and
- Recommending for “benthic invertebrates monitoring frequency for all sampling stations at Meadowbank (i.e. SP, TPE, TPN and WAL) [to] be uniformly performed annually as long as mining activities continue”.

On March 22, 2022, having reviewed the Licensee’s response, CIRNA provided its feedback reiterating its recommendations. Therefore, on March 29, 2022, the NWB recommended revision of the 2021 CREMP to reflect CIRNA’s feedback.

On May 30, 2022, the Licensee submitted the *Core Receiving Environment Monitoring Program (CREMP) 2022 Plan Update* dated April 22, 2022 (2022 CREMP), which the Board referred to CIRNA to confirm whether the intervenor's concerns were satisfied.

On June 17, 2022, CIRNA responded¹:

- a. *[CIRNA] confirms that [Agnico Eagle] correctly stated [CIRNA'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, [Agnico Eagle] misrepresented [CIRNA's] recommendations...*

[CIRNA] 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.

In response, Agnico Eagle revised the 2022 CREMP removing the statement that noted CIRNA was not concerned with the reduced frequency of benthic invertebrate monitoring.

Copies of all documents received in support of the Request can be accessed through the NWB's Public Registry and FTP site using the following link:

<ftp://ftp.nwb-oen.ca/registry/2%20MINING%20MILLING/2A/2AM%20-%20Mining/2AM-WTP1830%20Agnico/3%20TECH/B%20GENERAL/B13>

<ftp://ftp.nwb-oen.ca/registry/2%20MINING%20MILLING/2A/2AM%20-%20Mining/2AM-MEA1530%20Agnico/3%20TECH/B%20GENERAL/13%20PLANS>

NWB's Review

The NWB fully reviewed the Licensee's *Core Receiving Environment Monitoring Program (CREMP) 2022 Plan Update* dated April 22, 2022 and submitted to the NWB on July 5, 2022 (*revised 2022 CREMP*) in the context of interveners' comments and recommendations, potential impact of the proposed activities on the freshwater environment, and consistency of the proposed activity in relation to the scope of the Licence, as well as the clarifications provided by the Licensee. While the Board understands CIRNA's argumentation on the benefits of annual benthic invertebrate monitoring in Baker Lake, the Board took into account that

The only notable change to the study design in the [revised 2022 CREMP] is benthic invertebrate community monitoring at Baker Lake will be conducted every 3 years instead of annually. This modification to the CREMP is supported by 13 consecutive years of data 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.²

¹ John Onita (CIRNA) to Richard Dwyer (NWB), (CREMP) 2021 Plan Update for water licences 2AM-MEA1530 and 2AM-WTP1830, dated June 17, 2022.

² Agnico Eagle, *Core Receiving Environment Monitoring Program (CREMP) 2022 Plan Update* dated April 22, 2022.

Therefore, the Board approves the *revised* 2022 CREMP with Motion No: 2022-A1-002. The Licensee is advised that the Plan can be implemented upon issuance of this letter.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please contact the undersigned by email to assol.kubeisinova@nwb-oen.ca or by phone at (867) 360-6338.

Sincerely,

Assol Kubeisinova
A/Director, Technical Services
Nunavut Water Board

Cc: Distribution List – Meadowbank