



September 22nd, 2022

Mr. José Audet-Lecouffe
Senior Biologist
Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Arctic Region
301-5204 50th Ave (Franklin)
Yellowknife NT, X1A 1E2

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

Re: Agnico Eagle Meadowbank Complex – Whale Tail Dike Remediation Work

Dear Mr. Audet-Lecouffe and Mr. Dwyer,

Agnico Eagle Meadowbank Complex would like to advise Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB), of their intent to start construction of a thermal berm at the Eastern upstream abutment of Whale Tail Dike as a remediation measure to ensure the performance of the structure.

In August 2022 it was observed that the natural soil on the Eastern abutment had settled allowing water to ingress further into the East abutment which leads to rapid thawing of the Eastern abutment foundation and the development of cracks on the crest and sloughing of the dike slope in that area. AEM would like to start construction of an Eastern abutment thermal berm to stabilize the dike and re-establish permafrost in that sector. This plan is also strongly supported by the Meadowbank Dike Review Board (MDRB) as per their recommendation received on September 16, 2022.

Plans for a thermal berm were included in the '*Design Report of Whale Tail Dike*' approved by the NWB on July 16, 2018 as a potential mitigation in case of thawing of that sector due to permafrost degradation. Every year AEM has reassessed the need to construct this thermal berm. Until summer 2022 the thermal performance of the Eastern abutment was good and it was judged that this structure would not be required. The rationale was that the water level of Whale Tail South had reached its maximum elevation and it was thought that the maximum extent of permafrost degradation had been reached without negatively impacting the Eastern abutment.

AEM is of the opinion that the proposed work, which was part of the original design submission, is authorized by our Fisheries Act Authorization 16HCAA-00370 and Water Licence 2AM-WTP1830, as a component of the actual Whale Tail Dike. Due to the constraint of the northern climate, work is scheduled to start on an initial lift of that berm on September 23, 2022 before freezing conditions. The intent and general arrangement of the thermal berm remain the same and any modifications from the original design will be

reflected in the as-built drawings that will be provided to NWB and DFO, within 90 days of work completion as per the NWB Water Licence 2AM-WTP1830 Part D Item 16.

All material that will be used to construct this thermal berm will be non-acid generating and non-metal leaching. A small portion of material will be placed in shallow water 30 metres from the current shore limit as can be seen on Figure 1. Agnico Eagle will have in place erosion and sediment control measures. Among others, turbidity barriers will be deployed in Whale Tail South before commencing any works and water quality monitoring for TSS will be performed during the work and compared to limit establish in Part D, Item 7 of the Water Licence.

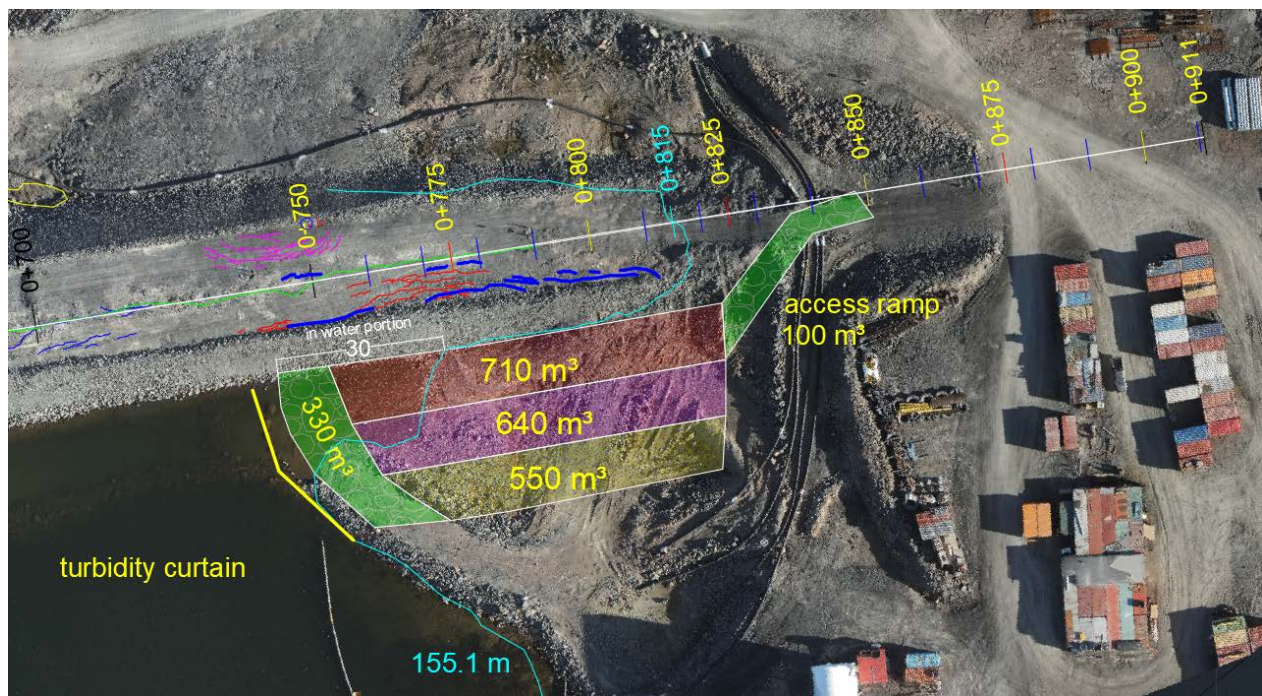


Figure 1: Schematic of planned material placement for the initial lift of Whale Tail Dike Eastern abutment thermal berm

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,

Alexandre Lavallee

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Environnement & Critical Infrastructures Superintendant