



December 14, 2018

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

Re: 2AM-WTP1826 Agnico Eagle Mines - Responses to Whale Tail Lake North Basin Dewatering Comments

Dear Mr. Dwyer,

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

- ECCC – December 12, 2018, 2AM-WTP-1826 – Agnico Eagle Mines– Whale Tail – Design Whale Tail Lake North Basin Dewatering

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

Best regards,

Marie-Pier Marcil
Marie-pier.marcil@agnicoeagle.com
819-759-3555 x5836
Senior Compliance Technician



1 Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

1.1 Turbidity monitoring in receiving environment

Reference: Whale Tail Lake North Basin Dewatering Design, Version 1 (November 2018), Section 5 (Environmental Monitoring Program)

Comment 1: As described in Section 5, Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and/ or turbidity will be measured in the receiving environment on a weekly basis. Monitoring will take place approximately 30 to 100 meters from end-of-pipe when it is safe to do so. As described in the monitoring methods, the collection of samples is dependent on stable ice conditions during ice-up and monitoring gaps may occur. However, potential monitoring gaps might be minimized by the installation of an automated turbidity probe.

ECCC recommends that Agnico Eagle Mines supplement the proposed environmental monitoring program with an automated turbidity probe that would provide (i.e., transmit or record) ongoing turbidity readings.

Agnico Eagle's Response:

As described in the Water Quality Monitoring and Management Plan for Dike Construction and Dewatering Section 5.1.2: 'TSS/turbidity will be measured in the receiving environment on a weekly basis; monitoring will take place approximately 30 - 100 meters from end-of-pipe, dependent on stable ice conditions during ice-up.'. It is Agnico's intent to conduct the monitoring in the receiving environment as per this approved plan.

Whale Tail North Dewatering is clean water exempt of TSS. A daily TSS monitoring program at the pump intake or Water Treatment Plan (if needed) and a visual inspection program will allow Agnico Eagle to follow closely the water quality during the dewatering. Furthermore, based on other dewatering conducted at Vault Lake and Phaser Lake, Agnico Eagle do not predict any impacts in the receiving environment and is of the opinion that a weekly sample will be sufficient to capture the water quality of the receiving environment. Also, the locations and design of the diffusers were selected to have a minimal water depth of 4 m. This way, Agnico is confident that the impacts, if any, in the receiving environmental would be minimal. Agnico also commits to take at least one sample per week and to increase the frequency if the receiving environment demonstrated a turbidity increase.

Agnico acknowledges that there may be potential monitoring gaps due to ice condition but considers that the use of an automated in-field turbidity probe may be challenging given the extreme winter conditions (extreme minimum temperature is -51C). The dewatering is scheduled to start mid-February 2019 and should be completed, at the latest, beginning of May 2019. Based on other Meadowbank water monitoring program on ice, the ice condition should be sufficient to permit safe sampling on a weekly basis. The weekly sample will be taken as close as possible of the discharge point in the receiving environment.



Agnico Eagle will also look into technologies available to assist in reducing any potential gaps in tracking turbidity and/or TSS within the dewatering phases and implement them if possible (logistics, availability, etc.).