

Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Prairie & Northern Region
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ECCC File: 6100 000 008/021
NIRB File: 2AM-WTP1830, 2AM-MEA1530



June 17, 2026

via email at: richard.dwyer@nwb-oen.ca

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

Dear Richard Dwyer:

RE: 2AM-WTP1830, 2AM-MEA1530 – Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. – Meadowbank Complex – Response to Comments on Meadowbank Complex Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has reviewed the information submitted to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (“the Proponent”) regarding the above-mentioned Response to Comments on the Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan.

ECCC provides expert information and knowledge to project assessments on subjects within the department’s mandate, including climate change, air quality, water quality, biodiversity, environmental emergencies preparedness and responses. This work includes reviewing proponent characterization of environmental effects and proposed mitigation measures. We provide advice to decision-makers regarding a proponent’s characterization of environmental effects, the efficacy of their proposed mitigation activities, and may suggest additional mitigation measures. Any comments received from ECCC in this context does not relieve the proponent of its obligations to respect all applicable federal legislation.

The following comments are provided:



1. ECCC-01. Closure criteria - stability

Reference:

Response to Comments on Meadowbank Complex Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan (Agnico Eagle, March 15, 2026)

Comment:

ECCC was unable to locate "stability demonstration methods" in Section 4.4 of Appendix 6A. The referenced section includes details on proposed reductions in monitoring frequency, but only briefly mentions stability in Section 4.4.3 (reduction in geotechnical monitoring frequency).

The Proponent has provided a definition for chemical stability, but they have not responded to the original question related to whether "stability" should be added to the wording of the closure criteria in Table 4.3-1. The Proponent has also not addressed the portion of the question that related to including details on the monitoring plan including details on methodology for assessing stability.

ECCC Recommendation:

ECCC continues to recommend that the Proponent:

- a) describe the methodology for how stability in water quality will be evaluated;
- b) discuss whether stability criteria should be included as part of the closure criteria or in the Closure and Post-Closure Monitoring Plan; and
- c) update the documents accordingly.

2. ECCC-02. Water quality – tailings cover configurations

Reference:

Response to Comments on Meadowbank Complex Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan (Agnico Eagle, March 15, 2026)

Comment:

ECCC understands that it is the intention of the Proponent to cover the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF). However, the no cover scenario provides insight on a worst-case scenario. Since the modelling has already been completed, understanding the contaminants that may be of concern in a worst-case scenario would help inform the range of potential risks should the cover be compromised over time, or not function as intended.

ECCC Recommendation:

ECCC continues to recommend that the Proponent provide information on which parameters exceed water licence criteria in a no cover scenario.

3. ECCC-04. Monitoring timelines

Reference:

Response to Comments on Meadowbank Complex Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan (Agnico Eagle, March 15, 2026)

Comment:

n/a

ECCC Recommendation:

ECCC thanks the Proponent for their confirmation and recommends that this statement be included in an updated version of the Closure and Post-Closure Monitoring Plan.

4. ECCC-06. Reduction in frequency of water monitoring at a station

Reference:

Response to Comments on Meadowbank Complex Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan (Agnico Eagle, March 15, 2026)

Comment:

n/a

ECCC Recommendation:

ECCC thanks the Proponent for the additional information and recommends that it is included in an updated version of the Closure and Post-Closure Monitoring Plan.

5. ECCC-12. Disposal of contaminated soil

Reference:

Response to Comments on Meadowbank Complex Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan (Agnico Eagle, March 15, 2026)

Comment:

ECCC thanks the Proponent for its response and acknowledges that the management approach for the remaining contaminated soil will be addressed in the Final Closure and Reclamation Plan.

ECCC Recommendation:

n/a

If you need more information, please contact Erik Allen at Erik.Allen@ec.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Erik Allen
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer

cc: Eva Walker, Head, Environmental Assessment North (NT and NU)