



Water Resources Division
Nunavut Regional Office
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Your file - Votre référence
2BE-MEA1318

October 15, 2015

Our file - Notre référence
IQALUIT #954912

Karén Kharatyan
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Water Board
Gjoa Haven, NU X0E 1J0

Re: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's (AANDC) reply to Agnico Eagles Mines Limited's response to comments/recommendations for their amendment application for water licence #2BE-MEA1318 – Meadowbank Exploration Project

Dear Mr. Kharatyan,

Thank-you for the email received on October 8, 2015 providing us the opportunity to respond to Agnico Eagle's response to the comments and recommendations we submitted in reviewing their amendment application for water licence #2BE-MEA1318 on September 24, 2015.

In order to keep this letter brief, neither our initial intervention nor Agnico Eagle's reply have been reproduced. These documents will have to be consulted in order to provide context to the following responses:

1. **Drilling from a barge** : A copy of the Waste Management Plan could not be found on the public registry or attached to the memo provided. The details on fuel transfer and barge displacement are satisfactory, and should be included in a revised plan.
2. **Installation of additional fuel tanks** : The answer is satisfactory with regards to updating the Spill Contingency Plan and AANDC's recommendation remains unchanged.
3. **Installation of water crossing** : AANDC does not believe the proponent has responded directly to the recommendation. The proponent should provide the following information:
 - i) Have flows during freshet and major precipitation events been considered in designing the water crossing?
 - ii) A copy of the authorization received from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. If this is not possible for confidentiality reasons, this should be communicated.

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4. **Redistribution of water attribution between domestic and drilling uses** : No comment.
5. **Installation of additional 40' Bionest** : AANDC still believes a containment system is necessary as a contingency measure even though the wastewater treatment plant is working adequately at the present time. If the treatment facility stops working properly in an emergency or otherwise, untreated sewage from a 200 person camp has the potential to contaminate surrounding water bodies.
6. **Modification of licence condition for effluent release** : AANDC is glad to read effluent now meets criteria and that other improvements to the system are planned, however the proponent has not directly responded to our recommendation, which remains unchanged.
7. **Modification of monitoring station names** : No comment.
8. **Modification of licence condition for restoration of drill holes** : AANDC is not requesting that old reports be updated, but that the requested information be included in future reports. Our recommendation on drill hole reclamation and reporting their status remains unchanged.
9. **Security** : AANDC's recommendation remains unchanged.

AANDC is concerned with the licensee respecting its allocated water use. In addition to the 200 person camp, according to a conversation with David Frenette from Agnico Eagle, there may be up to 10 drills in operation at any given time. He informed us that the water allocation would be respected through the use of water recirculation systems similar to what has been done at their Meliadine camp. AANDC is aware that the licensee will report water use in its annual reports to the Nunavut Water Board, however given the scale of the operation, we recommend that the licensee submit on a monthly basis daily water use data confirming that the licence limit is respected.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at Sarah.Forte@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca or at 867-975-3876 for any additional information.

Regards,

Sarah Forté
Water Management Coordinator

c.c.: David Abernethy, Regional Coordinator, AANDC Nunavut
Andrew Keim, Acting Manager of Water Resources, AANDC Nunavut
Erik Allain, Manager of Field Operations, AANDC Nunavut