



2BB-MEA1828 amendment 2 exploration camp relocation

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Fri, Feb 7, 2020 at 4:33 PM

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Hello Richard, Hello Everyone,

Thank you for providing AEM's responses.

Information provided addresses most comments, though additional clarification(s) would be beneficial.

To elaborate on DFO's submission of January 10, 2020:

- 1) DFO request AEM provide clarification regarding
 - i) what information was used to determine fish bearing status of the stream(s) crossed by the proposed access road (addressed) and
 - ii) where said information is located (not addressed).

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Additional Clarification:

The response states a satellite picture and map review and a field visit were conducted.

To clarify - what time of year did the field visit occur?

To clarify – have the satellite picture and map been provided previously as part of NIRB/ NWB processes?

- 2) DFO requests AEM provide clarification on
 - i) the fish bearing status of the waterbodies near the proposed relocated exploration camp (addressed – with caveat that the lake to the north of the proposed camp is the only waterbody being considered as a source),
 - ii) what information was used to determine fish-bearing status and the location of said information (addressed)

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Additional Clarification:

The response states that the lake proposed to be used as a freshwater intake is outside area studied for activities, and that is expected that waterbody is fish bearing due to location and size. DFO also appreciates mention that the interim code of practice re: fish screens will be applied

To clarify- is there any field-based information on the fish-bearing status of the lake, or is expectation that lake is fish-bearing based entirely on professional opinion?

iii) which waterbodies are being considered for water withdrawals (addressed) and

iv) how the proposed water withdrawal relates to information in Table 1 that was provided in response to NWB Commitment 2.2.3 (re: Water use volumes and source lakes for the Whale Tail Expansion Project) as part of the ongoing NWB Water Licence 2AM-WTP1826 Amendment review process for the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project (not addressed).

Additional Clarification:

Please provide response to point iv) ; please clarify how relocation of camp impacts water withdrawal requirements proposed under NWB Water Licence 2AM-WTP1826 Amendment review process (if at all).

3) DFO asks for additional clarification if guidance provided in i) *“Interim code of practice: End-of-pipe fish protection screens for small water intakes in freshwater”* will be used for intake screens (addressed), and ii) if guidance in *“Monitoring Explosive-Based Winter Seismic Exploration in Waterbodies, NWT 2000-2002”* (Cott and Hanna, 2005) will be used with regards to blasting activities (addressed)

Have a good weekend folks

Cheers

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