



Fisheries and Oceans Pêches et Océans
Canada Canada

501 University Crescent
Winnipeg, MB
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September 14, 2016

Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.
c/o Larry Connell
Corporate Director Regulatory Affairs
145 King Street East, Suite 400
Toronto, Canada
M5C 2Y7

Dear Mr. Connell:

Subject: Hovercraft use at Meadowbank Gold Mine, Nunavut

Thank you for your letter of September 9, 2016. DFO understands Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (AEM) is seeking information from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) as to any requirements prior to initiating the use of hovercraft vehicles in and around the Meadowbank Mine site property.

As you indicate in your letter, AEM is seeking similar advice from other regulatory bodies. DFO agrees that AEM should contact other federal (e.g. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada and Transport Canada) and territorial regulators (e.g. Nunavut Planning Commission, Nunavut Impact Review Board, and Nunavut Water Board) as well as consult with the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA).

Specifically, DFO understands that it is the Proponents responsibility under the *Nunavut Project Planning and Assessment Act* (NuPPAA) to submit a project proposal to the Nunavut Planning Commission (Sec.76(1) NuPPAA). DFO cannot make the determination as to whether the operation of the hovercraft constitutes the definition of *project* under the *Act*.

DFO provides the following questions to AEM:

- 1) Can AEM provide a map of the intended route of the hovercraft to identify which waterbodies will be impacted?
- 2) Can AEM provide a list of mitigation measures to ensure the bed and banks of waterbodies will be protected, as well as ensure the potential mortality of fish and fish eggs is avoided resulting from the noise during the operation of the hovercraft?



If your plans have changed or if the description of your proposal is incomplete or changed during the review of your application, you should contact this office to avoid any unnecessary delays in the review of your application.

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Patreau at (204)983-2361, or by email at Elizabeth.Patreau@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Please refer to the file number referenced above when corresponding with the Program.

Yours sincerely,

Martyn Curtis

A/Manager Regulatory Review

cc.

Elizabeth Patreau – DFO

Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC)

Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)

Nunavut Water Board (NWB)

Kivalliq Inuit Association

Christopher Aguirre – TC

Jason Patchell – INAC

Lisa Lowman – ECCC