



November 29th, 2016

Martyn Curtis
Regional Manager, Regulatory Reviews
Fisheries Protection Program
501 University Crescent
Winnipeg, MB
R3T 2N6

Re: Hovercraft use at Meadowbank Gold Mine, Nunavut- letter dated September 14th, 2016.

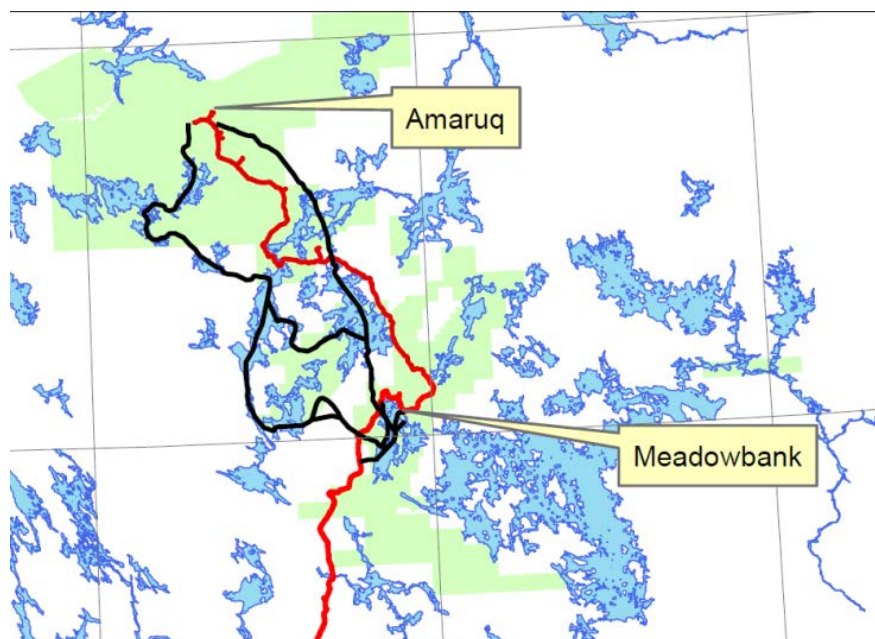
Dear Mr. Martyn Curtis,

Thank you for your initial comments regarding the use of hovercraft vehicles between the Meadowbank and Amaruq Site. Agnico Eagle intends to submit a project description to Nunavut Planning Commission according to Section 76 (1) of the Nunavut Project Planning and Assessment Act (NuPPAA).

The following are responses to the DFO letter dated September 14th, 2016.

DFO question #1: Can AEM provide a map of the intended route of the hovercraft to identify which waterbodies will be impacted?

Below you will find a draft map of routes planned for use by the hovercraft. As part of the initial pilot study planned to begin in Q3 of 2017 to 2019, Agnico Eagle intends to use the hovercraft year-round on previously approved winter road routes, trails identified on claim areas/ leases or on approved all season route, e.g. the Amaruq Exploration Access Road.





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DFO question #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?

At this time, Agnico Eagle does not foresee any shoreline impacts nor any potential effects to fisheries (i.e. no mortality to fish or fish eggs) resulting from the operation of the hovercraft and therefore has not contemplated a list of mitigation measures. It is important to note that for 8 months of the year, the hovercraft will be used under frozen conditions, on previously approved winter routes and therefore no additional effects are expected to the fishery. Furthermore, the reduced ground pressure is expected to have minimal disturbance along the shorelines during the winter.

DFO's peak particle velocity (PPV) guideline for the protection of fish and fish eggs is 13 mm/s. This is found to be below the DFO guidelines for the protection of fish and fish eggs. Furthermore, according to the specifications provided by the supplier the ground pressure of the hovercraft is 1 PSI (which on land, is about the same as rubber track ATV). The reduced ground pressure increases the flotation, allowing easier passage on water during the open water period and minimal disturbance along the shorelines in the summer.

Agnico Eagle appreciates DFO's comments and will continue to work with other regulatory agencies during review of this exciting pilot project to ensure the concerns that were raised in these comments have been adequately addressed.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the undersigned Jamie Quesnel at Jamie.quesnel@agnicoeagle.com M: 819.856.0821, or, Ryan Vanengen at ryan.vanengen@agnicoeagle.com M: 819.651.2974.

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited – Meadowbank Division

Regards,

Jamie Quesnel
Jamie.Quesnel@agnicoeagle.com
819.856.8021.
Environmental Superintendent – Nunavut

Ryan Vanengen
ryan.vanengen@agnicoeagle.com
819.651.2974
Environment Superintendent,
Permitting and Regulatory Affairs
Nunavut

CC: Elizabeth Patreau
Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC)
Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
Nunavut Water Board (NWB)
Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA)
Christopher Aguirre – TC
Jason Patchell – INAC
Lisa Lowman - ECCC