

8 July 2012

EC File 4703 001 062
NWT File 2BB-MEL0914
NIRB File 10EA018

Ms. Kelli Gillard
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

Re: 2BB-MEL0914 - Opportunity to Address Comments Received Regarding AEM's Application to Amend its Nunavut Water Board Type B Water Licence for the "Meliadine Bulk Sample" project: Response to Comments from Environment Canada

Dear Ms. Gillard;

AEM's amendment application is for the disposal of solid, nonhazardous waste in a proposed landfill. No liquids are to be disposed of in the landfill. Environment Canada's review comments in its letter of June 7th, 2012 were two fold and AEM prepared the following responses.

EC's Comment:

As per p.10 of the Landfill Design and Management Plan, EC notes AEM plans to site the length of the landfill perpendicular to the prevailing wind direction. Figure 2 of the Plan shows the landfill length running in a southeast to northwest direction. Climate normals (http://www.climate.weatheroffice.gc.ca/climate_normals/) for the Rankin Inlet weather station indicate that winds blow predominantly northwest in this area so the length of the landfill, as currently planned, is coincident with the predominant wind direction. Considering the foregoing, AEM may want to reconsider the orientation of its landfill to diminish the risk of windblown waste.

AEM's Response:

AEM will take the prevailing wind into consideration in constructing the landfill and its orientation will have the length perpendicular to the prevailing wind direction. The area to receive waste will be bounded by a granular material or rockfill berm as described in the Landfill Design and Management Plan. Operating procedures will see the waste compacted by running a dozer over the landfill waste after placement. Regular covering of the waste with granular material will also reduce windblown waste.

However, some windblown debris will escape the landfill and this will be especially evident on the landscape following the spring melt. Each spring AEM will have a litter clean-up campaign to collect any windblown waste found around camp and on the tundra.

EC's Comment:

As stated in the Landfill Design Plan, EC acknowledges AEM's plans to store hazardous waste materials in secure facilities until they can be backhauled for off-site recycling or disposal at an approved facility in another provincial or territorial jurisdiction. Under section 23 of the license amendment application, EC notes that an INAC inspector reported non-compliance with storage of fuel, oil and chemicals in secondary containment. According to this section, AEM has resolved this issue. However, EC noted that the Landfill Design and Management Plan did not implicitly state that hazardous substances will be stored within secondary containment. To this end, EC recommends the Proponent store any hazardous materials within secondary containment.

AEM's Response:

AEM will store hazardous waste within secondary containment.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate in getting in touch with me at 819 277 5444 or jwitteman@agnico-eagle.com.

Yours sincerely,



John Witteman

Cc. Allison Dunn, Environment Canada
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board
David Frenette, Stéphane Robert, Josée Noël - AEM