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

April 28, 2011

Phyllis Beaulieu
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
PO Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0A 1J0

Re: 2BB-MEL0914 – Meliadine West Gold Project – Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited – Application for Amendment #4

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has completed a review of the above noted Application for Amendment.

The Nunavut Water Board (NWB) distributed the application for comment on April 21, 2011.

In conducting this review, I have referred to all documents on the Nunavut Water Board FTP site as it relates to 2BB-MEL0914. Attached is a Technical Review Memorandum for your consideration.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments. I can be reached at (867) 975-4566 or by email at tanya.trenholm@inac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Tanya Trenholm
Pollution Policy Specialist

Technical Review Memorandum

To: Phyllis Beaulieu, Manager of Licensing - Nunavut Water Board

From: Tanya Trenholm, Pollution Policy Specialist - Indian and Northern Affairs
Canada – Water Resources Division

**Re: 2BB-MEL0914 – Meliadine West Gold Project – Agnico-Eagle Mines
Limited – Application for Amendment #4**

Background Information:

The Applicant has submitted an application for a fourth amendment to their existing water licence (2BB-MEL0914) for the purposes of constructing an all-weather road to support the 2012-2013 portion of the bulk sample program.

Recommendations / Comments

NIRB Screening:

In its February 2010 application to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB), Comaplex indicated that they were “investigating the idea of additional fuel bladders with a capacity of approximately 2 million L. A fuel storage option that could also be used in future mine development is preferred. Failing this, an all-weather road may be required to be built from Rankin Inlet to allow year-round fuel and supplied delivery from the hamlet of Rankin Inlet. A decision on which way to go will be based largely on the results of the Feasibility Study that will be completed in early 2011. An amendment to this application addressing this situation will be forwarded at this time.”

The screening decision issued by the NIRB on May 5, 2010 does not include the ‘all-weather road’ as part of its screened project activities, therefore activities related to the development of an all-weather road should be addressed by NIRB prior to the NWB considering the amendment application.

Reclamation Considerations:

Section 8 of the all-weather road proposal describes that ‘the road as designed will eventually be part of the Manitoba-Nunavut road to Chesterfield Inlet. As such, the larger part of the road – approximately 17 kilometres would not be reclaimed, and responsibility for it would be assumed by the Government of Nunavut upon closing of the Meliadine site.’

Given that the 'Manitoba-Nunavut' road is not currently in the Nunavut Environmental Assessment processes, and given that the all-weather road is being constructed to support activities related to the bulk sample program which will end in 2013, the proponent should address reclamation of the 17 km of the proposed all-weather road by way of their reclamation plan, or provide evidence that the Government of Nunavut or the responsible Inuit Organization will assume responsibility for the 17 km of the all-weather road upon closing of the Meliadine site, whether or not the 'Manitoba-Nunavut' road is a reality.

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience should you wish to further discuss any part of this submission to the Board. I can be reached at 867-975-4566 or via email, tanya.trenholm@inac.gc.ca.

cc. Jim Rogers, Manager, Water Resources Division, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Margaux Brisco, A/Manager, Environment Division, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Ian Rumbolt, Water Resources Officer, Field Operations Division, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada