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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

September 27, 2022

Nancy Duquet Harvey
Environmental Superintendent
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited – Hope Bay Mine
765 Chemin de la Mine-Goldex
Val-d'Or, Quebec, Canada J9P 7G4

**Licence No: 2AM-BOS1835
2AM-DOH1335
2BB-BOS1727
2BB-MAE1727
2BE-HOP1222**

Email: nancy.harvey@agnicoeagle.com

RE: NWB Technical Review of the 2021 Annual Report for Hope Bay Project Licences 2AM-BOS1835, 2AM-DOH1335, 2BB-BOS1727, 2BB-MAE1727, and 2BE-HOP1222.

Ms. Duquet Harvey,

The Nunavut Water Board (NWB or Board) has completed the technical review of the 2021 Annual Report (Report), for the Water Licences 2AM-DOH1335, 2AM-BOS1835, 2BB-MAE1727, 2BB-BOS1727, and 2BE-HOP2232, issued for the operation of the Doris – Madrid and Boston Projects and associated exploration projects known generally as Hope Bay Project. The report was received from Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle or Licensee) on March 31, 2022.

The NWB distributed the submissions to interested parties on April 13, 2022, for a sixty (60) day public review. On April 22, 2022 the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) requested an extension to submit review comments by June 20, 2022. On May 13, 2022, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) requested an extension to submit review comments by July 13, 2022.

By July 06, 2022, the NWB received comments CIRNA. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), and the KIA submitted comments on July 13, 2022. Agnico Eagle provided responses to comments on August 12, 2022. KIA submitted follow-up information requests on August 26, 2022. Agnico Eagle submitted responses on September 2, 2022 which were found to be satisfactory by all parties on or before September 14, 2022.

The NWB notes that Agnico Eagle also submitted the following updated management plans with the 2021 Annual Report:

- Spill Contingency Plan (Agnico Eagle, March 2022)
- Doris-Madrid Water Management Plan (Agnico Eagle, March 2022)

- Groundwater Management Plan (Agnico Eagle, March 2022)
- Waste Rock, Ore and Mine Backfill (Agnico Eagle, March 2022)
- Quarry Management Plan (Agnico Eagle, March 2022)
- QA/QC Management Plan (Agnico Eagle, March 2022)
- Operations, Maintenance and Surveillance Manual: Hope Bay Doris Tailings Impoundment Area (Agnico Eagle, February 2022)

Copies of all documents, including Interveners' comments and responses received during the review can be accessed through the NWB's Public Registry and FTP site using the following link:

<ftp://ftp.nwb-oen.ca/registry/2%20MINING%20MILLING/2A/2AM%20-%20Mining/2AM-DOH1335%20AEM/3%20TECH/B%20GENERAL/4%20ANNUAL%20RPT>

The table below provides a brief summary of the issues identified during the Report review that pertain to the NWB's mandate, which require follow up. The table provides comments/deadlines for the Licensee to provide information. For the Interveners' discussion of these items, please refer to the comment submissions referenced above. It should be noted that a number of questions/comments from Interveners were addressed during the review process; therefore, these items are not included within the table.

#	Comment / Recommendation	NWB comment / note / deadline
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA)		
R-04	CIRNA requested that the current temporary suspension of operations is addressed in the next iteration of the Interim Closure and Reclamation Plans (ICRP). Specifically, the ICRP should include options that involve the temporary production suspension transitioning into a permanent suspension requiring full closure earlier than previously planned.	Agnico Eagle will ensure that the next iteration of the ICRP, considers the applicable scenarios. An updated ICRP including associated closure cost and security amounts will be submitted to the NWB in February 2023.

#	Comment / Recommendation	NWB comment / note / deadline
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)		
ECCC-02	ECCC recommends that in future annual reports the Proponent provide a description of the differences in monitoring location for TL-12A and TL-12B to aid the reviewer in interpretation of results.	Agnico Eagle will ensure future annual reports provide a description to differentiate between the two sampling points. TL-12A is untreated underground mine water and TL12-B represents the treated underground mine water.
ECCC-04	ECCC recommends that the Proponent implement this recommendation and follow through with the visual monitoring suggested by SRK Consulting (Canada) Inc.	Agnico Eagle will complete the recommended bi-weekly inspections and the results will be presented in the 2022 Annual Geotechnical Report.

Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)		
KIA-2	KIA requests re-organizing the annual report for next year, such that all appendices have a unique number or letter and include bookmarks in the PDF for ease of navigation.	Agnico Eagle will endeavor to improve the report structure of the 2022 Annual Report.
KIA-3	KIA recommends increasing the resolution of Environmental Resource (Sensitivity) Maps A, B, C, and D to improve legibility and adding a feature count next to important attributes on the legend to inform the reader on the number of important features on the map.	Agnico Eagle will endeavor to update the Spill Contingency Plan Appendix 3 Environmental Resource Maps and take the recommended feature count addition into consideration for the 2022 Annual Report.

KIA-14	KIA recommends incorporating wildlife in the pollution control pond monitoring protocol and taking water quality samples more frequently if any wildlife is detected using the ponds.	Agnico Eagle will update the Water Management Plan to reference the Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (2021) and will consider an increase to the water quality sampling frequency. This update will be submitted with the 2022 NWB Annual Report.
KIA-20	Provide a schematic (e.g., box-and-pointer diagram) describing the model components, linkages, and nodes associated with the water and load balance model in future reporting. Provide a summary of the key mechanisms and assumptions incorporated in the model.	Agnico Eagle will include these recommendations in the 2022 Annual Water and Load Balance Assessment.
KIA-23	AEM categorizes predicted concentrations of water quality parameters under four different classifications; conservative, trending well, underpredicted or detection limit greater than prediction. KIA request that AEM provide a more fulsome definition of each of the predicted parameter classifications and the methods used for classification.	Agnico Eagle provided definitions and agreed to include a more fulsome definition of each category in the 2022 annual report.
KIA-29	KIA recommends that AEM indicate if fuel and chemical storage locations abide by the minimum distance policy or provide a scale for the reviewer to determine it on their own.	Agnico Eagle will update the Spill Contingency Plan fuel and chemical storage figures with a scale. The update will be included in the 2022 NWB Annual Report.
KIA-31	KIA recommends that AEM provide a response for every comment, even if the response indicates the comment has been addressed or refer to a previous response.	Agnico Eagle will update the Spill Contingency Plan to include a response or reference to previous response for every comment. The update will be included in the 2022 NWB Annual Report.

After completing the technical review of the 2021 Annual Report Submission for Hope Bay Project Licences 2AM-DOH1335, 2AM-BOS1835, 2BB-MAE1727, 2BB-BOS1727 and 2BE-HOP1222, the NWB has determined that the information provided generally addresses the requirements of current Water Licence. Please ensure the comments provided in the table above are addressed by the deadlines specified.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 360-6338 (extension 33) or ali.shaikh@nwb-oen.ca, at your earliest convenience.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'mali', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mohammad Ali Shaikh
Nunavut Water Board,
Technical Advisor

Enclosed: Comments – CIRNA, ECCC, KIA

Cc: Distribution List – Doris North