



ᓄᓇᓂᓪ ᐃᓕᓂᓪᓴᓪ ᑲᓂᓕᓴᓪᓴᓪ  
NUNAVUT WATER BOARD  
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI  
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

**File: 2BE-HOP2232/G1  
Modification**

October 17, 2024

Colleen Prather  
Permitting and Regulatory Affairs Superintendent  
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited  
11600 rue Louis-Bisson,  
Mirabel, Quebec, Canada J7N 1G9

Email: [colleen.prather@agnicoeagle.com](mailto:colleen.prather@agnicoeagle.com)

**RE: Licence No: 2BE-HOP2232 Type B, Hope Bay Regional Exploration Project;  
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited; Gravel track construction**

---

Dear Ms. Prather:

On September 5, 2024, the Nunavut Water Board (NWB or the Board) acknowledged the receipt of a Notice of Modification by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Agnico Eagle or Licensee) for a modification (Request) to the Licence No: 2BE-HOP2232 (the Licence) issued to Agnico Eagle for the Hope Bay Regional Exploration Project (the Project). This notification is required under Part G, Item 1 of the Licence.

The Nunavut Planning Commission's (NPC) determination<sup>1</sup> confirms that... *"the inclusion of temporary gravel track and drill surfaces does not change the general scope of the original or previously amended project activities, and exceptions noted in Section 12.4.3 (a) and (b) of the Nunavut Agreement do not apply."* Thus, a screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) is not required.

The Notice of Modification outlines Agnico Eagle's proposal to source gravel from an approved quarry, construct a temporary gravel track, and construct watercourse crossings. Agnico states that in April 2024, they met with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KitIA) to discuss plans for the gravel track, and the KitIA did not raise any concerns about its route. The plan was also presented to the Inuit Environmental Advisory Committee (IEAC) in early July 2024, and no concerns were expressed then either.

The temporary gravel track will be 2 km long and will allow year-round exploration near Patch Lake. According to Agnico Eagle, the track is necessary for moving exploration drills, which

---

<sup>1</sup> NPC File No. 150502 [Hope Bay Regional Exploration Program – Type B Water Licence (2BE-HOP1222) Renewal] dated August 28, 2024.

cannot traverse the land without it. Once regulatory approvals are in place, construction will begin, including small drill surfaces along the track for flat working areas.

Agnico Eagle will ensure that the gravel materials will come from approved, non-acid generating, and non-metal leaching sources. The construction will be carried out using heavy machinery, and all work will be confined to the road surface.

Further Agnico Eagle has stated that, *“The gravel track will cross one watercourse which will require a culvert for water flow, and one culvert to allow fish passage.”* And, *“Agnico Eagle will work directly with DFO for the necessary review and approval for the fish bearing culvert. Watercourses with proposed culvert crossings are intermittent and are expected to be frozen solid or dry at the time of installation.”*

On September 6, 2024, the NWB distributed the Request for public review. Interested parties were invited to comment until September 27, 2024. Submissions were received from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) by September 27, 2024. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) responded on September 18, 2024 stating that they look forward to receiving the request for review from Agnico Eagle.

Agnico Eagle provided their responses on October 7, 2024. A summary is provided below:

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) (September 27, 2024)

1. CIRNA requested confirmation of dust control measures and the schedule for construction. CIRNA also reminded the Licensee to ensure that the new gravel track does not create water pools and that any new culverts and related work do not degrade the banks of watercourses. These measures should also be included in the next update of the reclamation plan

Response: Agnico Eagle committed to applying good construction practices for the gravel track, monitor for pooling or erosion issues and implement mitigation as needed. To reduce dust, Agnico will limit speed and use dust suppressants as necessary. Construction activities will be scheduled for completing the track before the spring of 2025. The track is located on Inuit Owned Land, and Agnico Eagle will review and address any outstanding fees related to Hope Bay water licenses. Finally, Agnico Eagle will include the gravel track in the next iteration of the reclamation plan.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) (September 25, 2024)

1. ECCC advised the Proponent to conduct all project phases in a way that minimizes risks to migratory birds, avoiding harm, disturbance, or destruction of their nests and eggs, and avoid potentially harmful activities at critical locations or times to prevent negative impacts.

Response: Agnico Eagle stated that if permits are granted, the construction activities will occur during winter. However, if construction extends from mid-May to mid-August and avoidance of nesting areas is not feasible, pre-clearing surveys will be conducted to

identify nesting sites and bird activity, with appropriate buffers established during construction.

2. ECCC advised the Proponent to avoid activities that disturb habitats, such as vegetation clearing and excavation, during the general nesting period from mid-May to mid-August. The Proponent should explore options like avoiding, adapting, rescheduling, or relocating activities.

Response: Agnico Eagle stated that for new construction during the migratory bird nesting season, trained personnel will conduct pre-construction surveys to identify signs of bird nesting behavior from a distance. If necessary, appropriate avoidance buffers will be established.

3. ECCC requested the Proponent to ensure that any heavy equipment sourced externally for the gravel track construction be equipped with engines meeting Tier 4 emission standards.

Response: Agnico Eagle stated that they will not be sourcing additional equipment for this activity as there is already equipment on-site which will be utilized.

On October 9, 2024, CIRNA confirmed that their concerns were addressed by the Agnico Eagle's responses.

On October 15, 2024, ECCC replied to Agnico Eagle's responses regarding road construction timing and noted the potential for disturbance to migratory birds during the nesting season. Agnico Eagle voiced plans to conduct active nest searches if clearing occurs during this time. ECCC advises against such searches due to low nest detection rates and high risks of disturbance. Instead, ECCC recommends completing construction before the nesting season. If nest searches are necessary, they should be done by skilled observers, follow proper methods, be limited to small bird populations, and occur in simple habitats.

Copies of all documents received in support of the Request 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/2B/2BE%20-%20Exploration/2BE-HOP2232%20AEM/3%20TECH/G%20MODIFICATIONS>

#### NWB's Review and Decision

The NWB, having fully reviewed the Licensee's request in the context of potential impact of the proposed activities on the freshwater environment, and consistency of the proposed activity in relation to the scope of the Licence, determined that the proposed modification is consistent with the scope of activities considered under the Licence issued to the Project. Therefore, by way of this correspondence and in accordance with Part G, Item 1 of the Licence, the Board authorizes Agnico Eagle to construct the temporary gravel track.

The Licensee is advised that the Board's review of this document is a verification that the proposed activity is consistent with the existing terms and conditions of the Licence and more specifically with Part G. It should be noted that the Board's acceptance is NOT intended or offered as any representation regarding the suitability of the plans nor third-party verification of the design, construction, planning or engineering discussed in the document.

Further, in keeping with Part G, Item 3 of the Licence's terms and conditions, the submission of post-construction information, including as-built plans and drawings, shall remain applicable to this authorization.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please contact the NWB Licensing Department by email to [licensing@nwb-oen.ca](mailto:licensing@nwb-oen.ca) or by phone at (867) 360-6338.

Sincerely,

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

Mohammad Ali Shaikh  
Technical Advisor,  
Nunavut Water Board

as/rh

Cc: Distribution List – Kitikmeot