



## **May 1<sup>st</sup> DFO and AEM meeting in Yellowknife: Summary and Notes**

**Topics:**      **Vault Expansion into Phaser Lake (Phaser Pit and Baby Phaser Pit)**  
**Amaruq Exploration Access Road**  
**Meliadine Fisheries Assessment and Offsetting Plan**

*(These meeting minutes were reviewed by all parties prior to finalizing)*

Present and in attendance at the Meeting-

DFO: Veronique D'Amours-Gauthier; Georgina Williston; Julie Marentette

Agnico Eagle Mines (AEM): Ryan Vanengen

Golder (on behalf of AEM): Cam Stevens

The below meeting minutes are intended to provide general information highlighting the key messages from AEM and feedback from DFO during the meeting held at the DFO office in Yellowknife on May 1st. It has been reviewed by all parties prior to finalizing. In addition to the below notes, please refer to the attached presentation that provided a guide to the meeting. The presentation was made by Ryan and provided a platform for discussion between Veronique, Georgina, Julie, Cam and Ryan; if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact [ryan.vanengen@agnicoeagle.com](mailto:ryan.vanengen@agnicoeagle.com).

9:00am – Introductions and an overview of the Meadowbank Mine site and current status of Phaser Pit

AEM and DFO discussed the Meadowbank Authorizations and associated history. Ryan highlighted what has been done to date for Phaser Lake and explained that in July, AEM applied for an authorization, which triggered a review by NIRB. In February, NIRB requested that AEM complete an addendum to the original FEIS; nothing has been submitted by AEM since the request. AEM is working on the documents and intends to submit an addendum to the AEM 2012 No Net Loss Plan (NNLP) as part of the submission that covers both Phaser Pit and Baby Phaser Pit. AEM intends to submit the FEIS addendum by mid-June. The NNL Plan (or offsetting plan) addendum would use the same HU calculation method used in past submissions. The plan will also consider a productivity conversion using the historical fishout and water quality monitoring data.

DFO agreed with this approach and suggested to simply submit the report directly to DFO. Since the application was already submitted and the file is open with NIRB and DFO there is no need to go through the application process online. DFO recommended that AEM send it directly to Julie along with the NIRB submission.



Overall DFO was comfortable with this approach, appreciated the history and background on this file and will work with AEM (within the NIRB timeline) as best possible to meet the dewatering and operational timeline outlined in the presentation.

(9:35 – Cam arrived and joined the meeting)

10am - Amaruq Exploration Access Road

AEM is completing an advanced exploration surface drilling campaign, the proposed access road will provide safety and fuel for year round exploration and eventually AEM would like to expand the site to an exploration ramp or portal. There is a considerable amount of fuel required for underground ramp development; which is one of the main reasons for the application to NWB for a Type B access road.

The Type B application was submitted by AEM on March 17, 2015 and NPC is in the process of reviewing the file. AEM is clear spanning all 11 fisheries watercrossings with either a clear span bridge or arch culvert. Given this approach, Ryan asked DFO if a review by DFO was required. Ultimately, DFO will review the project through existing processes (through the NIRB screening); one recommended option is to submit the screening document with the assessment (so that DFO and AEM can refer to the information in the assessment form to minimize redundancies and have greater transparency); the DFO 'letter of advice' or recommendations to NIRB will determine whether a fisheries authorization is required; recommendations in the letter will represent the terms and conditions of the review decision.

DFO (Georgina) asked - what are you doing with decommissioning? Ryan responded that the plan submitted to board includes decommissioning following end of exploration use; 5 years to operate the exploration site and 2 years to decommission.

DFO noted that Veronique is presently helping the triage group, so northern files will be triaged by Veronique. All new applications are to be sent to the general email.

In addition to the access road, AEM presented the exploration site culvert installations proposed for September 2015. The culvert crossings at the approved and screened exploration site will be addressed under an existing permit and can be sent directly to Julie. AEM presented the stacked culvert design to be used at the exploration site culvert crossings; the streams are ephemeral, supporting only slimy sculpin and ninespine stickleback based on baseline studies. An imbedded culvert at the crossings will permit flow of the streams and passage of fish and no impacts to the fishery (Commercial Recreational or Aboriginal; CRA) are expected.

10:30 am - AEM presented the Meliadine Phase 1 site layout and the significant reductions in the aquatic footprint compared to the site layout assessed in the final Environmental Impact



Statement (FEIS), as a result of the re-designed site layout. No impacts to the productivity of the CRA fisheries are predicted under the updated site layout.

After reviewing the changes to the site, AEM presented the sequence of construction of the H17 dike (and H17 collection pond). AEM does not believe that impacts to Lake H17 (which only has incidental use by small numbers of ninespine stickleback that enter the lake following during the freshet) will cause serious harm to fish. Lake H17 will be a collection pond onsite (called CP1) and presently freezes through to the bottom because of the shallow depths. AEM intends to build the H17 dike in the winter and then dewater or use water for milling in the following freshet; therefore it is expected that no fish will be present the following summer. Ryan attended a training session that DFO gave to consultants, where he reported that ninespine stickleback that are isolated in ponds are not considered CRA fisheries; therefore, projects affecting such ponds don't require a review. So, H17 pond doesn't require an authorization. AEM suggests submitting a request for review given that there are potential impacts in the flows of downstream ponds of H1 and H2 during operation of the D-CP1 and D-CP8 dikes. Although only a few arctic grayling have been recorded in Lake H1 and juveniles in the stream H1-2, AEM noted that overall this stream system would not impact the productivity of the CRA fishery in Meliadine Lake and that the new site layout does not directly impact a CRA fishery.

DFO (Veronique) commented that the Meliadine file is open so just send the request for review to Veronique directly (not to triage). If needed AEM could meet with DFO following the submission to make sure information in the application is sufficient. Overall, AEM re-emphasized that the changes to the site have been significant and that although this is phase 1 of the project, we have made significant strides to avoid impacts to CRA fisheries at this point in the regulatory phase.

DFO requested that a table be included in the offsetting plan that shows a review of the waterbodies listed in the FEIS (approved in the NIRB Project Certificate) and the waterbodies affected under the updated layout, summarizing the efforts to avoid serious harm to fish.

DFO also reviewed the current staffing arrangement and roles at the DFO NWT/ NU office:

Georgina is current supervisor for north, Veronique is covering the Meliadine file, Julie is temporarily covering the Amaruq/Meadowbank file until Liz is back in September and Julie Dahl the manager, Dale Nicholson is the Regional Director.