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July 26, 2007

Phyllis Beaulieu
Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
Gjoa Haven, NU

via e-mail

RE: Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. – Type B water license application for the Baker Lake Tank Farm and Marshalling Area – 8BC-MEA

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Meadowbank's request for a type B water license for the construction, operation and decommissioning of a tank farm and marshalling area at Baker Lake, NU. On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the information submitted and the following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to Environment Canada's mandated responsibilities for the enforcement of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

Environment Canada has some concerns with the Baker Lake Tank Farm and Marshalling Area being split from the main Meadowbank Project. While EC understands that mobilization of equipment and fuel in advance of the main project is often necessary, the main project is clearly dependent on these activities and should not be viewed as two separate projects. The project should be assessed as a whole in view of the fact that project splitting can render the environmental assessment, monitoring and enforcement of project activities difficult.

Given the Meadowbanks Project is currently operating under two water licenses (3BC-THE & 8BC-THE), the two projects are dependant on one another and do not have separate objectives, EC recommends that all further infrastructure associated with the Meadowbank Project be incorporated into one type A water license at which time the proponent submits an application.

Environment Canada looks forward to the Board's decision on this matter as well as providing specialist advice in relation to the above submitted application if the board chooses to proceed with a separate screening. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4631 or by email at cindy.parker@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Cindy Parker
Environmental Assessment Specialist

Cc: Carey Ogilvie (Head- EA North, Environment Canada, Yellowknife, NWT)

