



Fisheries and Oceans Pêches et Océans
Canada Canada

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Central and Arctic Region
Suit 301, 5204 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 1E2

April 24, 2020

Your file Votre référence

11MN034

Our file Notre référence

11- HCAA-CA7-00014

Tara Arko
Direction, Technical Services
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0

**Subject: [11MN034] – Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. – Meliadine Gold Mine-
2020 Saline Discharge Strategy and Saline Effluent Discharge to
Marine Environment Amendment**

Dear Tara Arko:

The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program (the Program) of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has reviewed the information submitted to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (the Proponent) regarding the 2020 Saline Discharge Strategy and Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment Amendment. Fisheries and Oceans Canada offers the following responses:

We understand that the proponent proposes to amend the **Saline Discharge Strategy** by the following:

- Increase volume of saline effluent discharged into Melvin Bay from 800 m³ to 1600 m³
- Increase truck traffic on the all-weather road per day from the previously-approved 16 round trips to 44 one-way trips per day.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada notes that the amendments proposed in the 2020 saline discharge strategy do not fall within our mandate, and has no further comment.

We understand that the proponent proposes to amend the **Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment** by the following:

- Install and operate two (2) pipelines with a diameter of 16-inches alongside the existing all-weather access road and by-pass road from the Meliadine mine site to the existing Itivia harbour facility.
- Install, operate and decommission a new pipeline extending from the existing Itivia facility pump house to a new discharge location in Melvin Bay approximately 250 meters northwest of the existing approved pipeline.
- Increase saline effluent discharge into Melvin Bay from 6,000 m³ to 12,000 m³ per day.

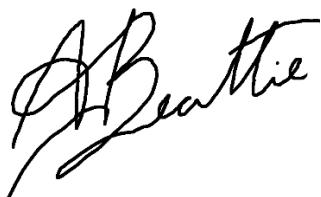
Fisheries and Oceans Canada notes that the Proponent will be required to submit a *Request for Review* of the proposed amendment Fisheries and Oceans Canada as watercourse crossing are associated with the additional pipeline installation. Watercourse crossings are subject to review for:

- harmful alterations, disruption or destruction of fish habitat as a result of the work, undertaking or activity proposed as stated under Sub-section 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act* (unless authorized);
- effects to listed aquatic species at risk, any part of their critical habitat or the residences of their individuals in a manner which is prohibited under sections 32, 33 and subsection 58(1) of the *Species at Risk Act* (unless authorized), and;
- the introduction of aquatic species into regions or bodies of water frequented by fish where they are not indigenous, which is prohibited under section 10 of the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations* (unless authorized).

Fisheries and Oceans Canada anticipates that any concerns with respect to fish and fish habitat will be addressed through our regulatory process, should the NIRB approve the project, and has no further comments at this time.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comments regarding the proposed 2020 Saline Discharge Strategy and Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment Amendment. If you have any questions with the content of this letter, please contact Edyta Ratajczyk at our Yellowknife office at 867-445-3924 or by email at edyta.ratajczyk@dfo-mpo.gc.ca .

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Beattie'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'A' being large and prominent.

Alasdair Beattie

A/Team Leader, Mining, Oil and Gas North