

**Memo**

To	Jamie Quesnel and Michel Groleau; Agnico Eagle Mines
From	Greg Sharam, ERM
Date	8 January 2021
Reference	0530275-0011
Subject	Caribou Ingestion of Salt Water

Dear Mr. Quesnel and Groleau,

On November 12th, Agnico Eagle received technical comments from the Sayisi Dene First Nation (SDFN) on the proposed Meliadine Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment Project. On December 17th, Agnico Eagle met with the SDFN to discuss their comments.

At that meeting, Dr. Steve Kearney a wildlife biologist and consultant to the SDFN described the comments made on the project. Comment SDFN-03 requested additional information on whether caribou would be attracted to the saline water should a spill occur. Would caribou be attracted to the salt water, drink too much salt water and become sick as a consequence. Dr. Kearney requested that Agnico Eagle approach a veterinarian to determine if caribou could be injured by drinking too much salt water.

ERM approached Dr. Helen Schwantje, Wildlife Veterinarian for the province of British Columbia, Department of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD). Dr. Schwantje contacted Dr. Barry Blakeley, Professor in the Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Blakeley indicated that there can be effects to animal health if saline water is the only water source, e.g., animals in a fenced plot. However, he stated that "If the animals have access to fresh water there should be no concerns."

The area surrounding the Project contains many sources of fresh water, that will be open water during late June and July when caribou are known to occupy the area. The Regional Study Area contains thousands of small lakes, making up 28% of the total landcover (Meliadine FEIS 2014, Chapter 6, Page 6-108).

Dr. Greg Sharam
Technical Director, ERM