



## **Crown-indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada Speaking Notes on 2AM-MEL1631 Application for Amendment on Emergency Basis, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, Meliadine Project**

1. Thanks to the Nunavut Water Board for organizing this teleconference call on the Application for Amendment of the Meliadine Project Water Licence 2AM-MEL1631 on Emergency Basis by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited.
2. Crown-indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada is participating in this amendment process pursuant to its mandated responsibilities under the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and the *Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Act* and other associated legislation and policies.
3. April 2, 2020: Crown-indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada requested that Agnico Eagle Mines Limited provide sufficient information and response to these technical review questions.
  - What adaptive measures Agnico Eagle have implemented to resolve or mitigate;
  - The potential challenges and why this request was not made soon after CP1 freeze-up in 2019;
  - What other alternatives has Agnico eagle considered for managing the water in CP1 with high TDS, including treatment before discharge; and,
  - How will Agnico Eagle mitigate any unanticipated potential adverse effects on water quality of the receiving environment during this discharge.
4. Crown-indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada appreciates Agnico Eagle Mines Limited prompt response to Crown-indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada request. Based on information provided by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, Crown-indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada has conducted assessment on some of the key aspects of the emergency amendment application shown below:

### **Crown-indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada Analysis**

- Agnico Eagle Mines Limited in its amendment application indicated that *“no emergency at the Meliadine Mine currently exists, and no emergency will occur if Agnico Eagle is permitted to release the CP1 waters in a timely way. While the current situation at the Meliadine Mine is not an emergency in the near term, in order to ensure that the infrastructure remains protected it is essential to dewater CP1 starting in May 2020.”*
- Crown-indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada notes that the Water Licence No. 2AM-MEL1631 permits CP1 water to be released to the Meliadine Lake when the various specific terms and conditions are met.
- Crown-indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada also notes that Agnico Eagle Mines Limited treated and discharged 306,773 m<sup>3</sup> and 642,521 m<sup>3</sup> of water from CP1 in 2019 and 2018 respectively. Based on the 2018 Annual Report (Appendix H-2) submitted by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, 352,551 m<sup>3</sup> of water from CP1 was treated and discharged in July, 2018. This indicates that Agnico Eagle Mines Limited has had the capacity on site to treat over 0.35 million cubic meter



per month of water from CP1, or would be able to treat a total volume of over 1.4 million cubic meter in four months between June and September, 2020.

- Agnico Eagle Mines Limited also provided a table with data that indicates that a total volume of about 1.616122 million cubic meter of water from CP1 will need to be treated and discharged to the Meliadine Lake, which is slightly higher than Agnico Eagle Mines Limited demonstrated treatment capacity.
- Crown-indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada also notes that in its response to CIRNAC-3, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited listed a number of potential actions and mitigation measures, including: upgrade Reverse Osmosis system to treat brine under CP1 ice cap; ice removal from CP1 (leaving brine); optimize water management to minimize inflows to CP1 during freshet; segregation and direct discharge of freshet runoff; and snow management optimization; and Use CP1 water as make-up water in the Mill.

### **Crown-indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada Conclusion**

Crown-indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada concludes that Agnico Eagle Mines Limited has not satisfactorily demonstrated why treatment is not a viable option and should therefore better describe why it is not.

Given Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's demonstrated treatment capacity and other potential mitigation measures that Agnico Eagle Mines Limited is committed to consider and implement, Crown-indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada believes that the potential risks to infrastructure can be avoided without an emergency amendment.

### References

1. 200326 2AM-MEL1631 AEM Letter to NWB – Meliadine – Expedited Amendment TDS – 3242020 IMLE
2. 200324 2AM-MEL1631 Water Licence Amendment Application-IMLE
3. 200402 2AM-MEL1631 Emergency Amendment CIRNA Comments-IMLE
4. 200406 2AM-MEL1631 Agnico Eagle Emergency Amendment Responses-IMLE
5. 200406 2AM-MEL1631 Agnico Eagle Letter to NWB – Emergency Amendment – 462020-IMLE
6. 190331 2AM-MEL1631 2018 Annual Report Complete Submission - IMLE