



KIA Lands Department Plain Language Summary

LICENCE: Water Licence 2AM-MEL1631

DATE: April 14, 2020

SUBJECT: Review of Agnico Eagle's Application to Authorize the Release of Water from Containment Pond 1 (CP1) to Meliadine Lake

On March 24, 2020, Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (Agnico Eagle) filed an emergency application with the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) requesting an amendment to the Meliadine Mine Water License 2AM-MEL1631. Agnico Eagle has asked to amend the Water License to release water from a containment pond called CP1 to Meliadine Lake with concentrations of total dissolved solids (TDS) that are higher than the License allows. TDS makes the water saline and has the potential to change the water, and impact fish and other aquatic life.

Agnico Eagle has asked the NWB to process its application as an emergency and approve the amendment by May 1, 2020 so they can release the water to Meliadine Lake before the spring melt. Emergency applications are decided without a public hearing, and the timeline requested does not leave time for the general public to provide comments. Agnico has specifically asked for permission to discharge all water in CP1 to Meliadine Lake to prevent damage to the infrastructure.

KIA does not support the release of saline water to Meliadine Lake. KIA has engaged expert technical and legal assistance to review Agnico Eagle's application and understands that some release of water may be necessary to prevent damage to the infrastructure. However, it remains unclear whether there will be an emergency if the discharge does not start before the spring melt and whether there is any other way to manage the saline water other than discharging it into Meliadine Lake.

KIA raised seven technical concerns with Agnico Eagle's proposal through the NWB process focused on the impact of the proposal on the water, fish, and other aquatic life in Meliadine Lake. Specific concerns raised by KIA focused on:

- Understanding the risk to the CP1 dike if water is not discharged.
- Determining where the saline water in CP1 has come from to prevent this problem from happening again in the future.
- Determining if there are other ways to manage the saline water in CP1 other than discharging it to Meliadine Lake.
- Understanding if the release of saline water could harm fish and other aquatic life, and working with Agnico Eagle and other interveners to avoid that potential.
- Ensuring Agnico Eagle will effectively monitor discharged saline water in the environment so they can quickly address any unexpected problems that occur.



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So far, the information provided by Agnico Eagle has not convinced KIA that the discharge of saline water will not impact fish and other aquatic life, or that removing all of the water from the containment pond is necessary to avoid an emergency. We look forward to continued discussions with Agnico Eagle through the NWB process to resolve our outstanding concerns with their application.