

Ministre des
Affaires du Nord



Minister of
Northern Affairs

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

MAY 12 2020

Mr. Lootie Toomasie
Chairman
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
GJOA HAVEN NU X0B 1J0

lootie.toomasie@nwb-oen.ca

Dear Mr. Toomasie:

Thank you for the Nunavut Water Board's correspondence of April 29, 2020, received by the Department on April 30, 2020, conveying the Board's Reasons for Decision and the issued Amendment No. 1 to Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's existing type A Water Licence 2AM-MEL1631 for my consideration, on an emergency basis.

As requested, in consideration of the time-sensitive nature of the situation, I have expedited my review of the materials provided and, pursuant to paragraph 152(1)(c) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, certify that an emergency exists and it is in the interest of protecting property and the environment that this project be carried out without delay. Further, pursuant to subsection 56(2) of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, I am pleased to inform you that I consent to the Nunavut Water Board's processing of the Meliadine Amendment No.1 application on an emergency basis, and I approve the issuance of Amendment No.1, as recommended by the Nunavut Water Board. The signed original is enclosed.

I would also encourage you to work with the proponent to ensure the community is being informed about the progress of discharges from Containment Pond 1 into Meliadine Lake, especially in light of the inability to fully engage the community in this regulatory process due to its urgency and the prevailing COVID-19 restrictions.

Sincerely,

Hon. Daniel Vandal, P.C., M.P.

Encl.

c.c.: Ms. Stephanie Autut
Mr. Richard Dwyer

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