

June 01, 2026

**Subject: Health Canada's response to the Comment Request for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Meliadine Project 2025 Annual Monitoring Report**

---

Dear Keith Morrison:

Thank you for your email dated April 15, 2026, requesting comments on the Meliadine Project 2025 Annual Monitoring Report provided by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited.

Health Canada (HC) participates in environmental assessments as a federal authority under the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14 (*NuPPAA*). Upon request, HC makes available specialist or expert information or knowledge in its possession to review panels and responsible authorities.

The objective and scope of HC's review was to verify that potential health risks of the project are properly identified and to support Responsible Authorities prevent, reduce, and mitigate the potential health impacts of project activities.

HC has reviewed the 2025 Annual Report and comments are provided in the tables below, as well as the attached worksheet.

Should you have any questions concerning HC's response, please contact Ayesha Sohail at [Ayesha.Sohail@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Ayesha.Sohail@hc-sc.gc.ca).

Sincerely,

Ayesha Sohail

Impact Assessment Specialist  
Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch (HECSB)  
Health Canada

cc: Heather Jones-Otazo, Senior Manager, Environmental Assessment Division,  
HECSB, Health Canada  
Wendy Wilson, Senior Environmental Health Advisor / Team Lead, Prairie & North  
Region, HECSB, Health Canada  
Paul Partridge, Impact Assessment Specialist, HECSB, Health Canada

<b>Comment Number:</b>	HC-01
<b>Subject/Topic:</b>	Arsenic – Presentation of trend analyses
<b>References:</b>	<p>Health Canada’s comments on the 2023 Annual Report (NIRB Registry ID – 350157)</p> <p>Health Canada’s comments on the 2024 Annual Report (NIRB Registry ID – 356225)</p> <p>2025 Annual Report, Appendix 18 – Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program Report (NIRB Registry ID – 360492)</p> <p>2025 Annual Report, Appendix 24 – Air Quality Monitoring Report (NIRB Registry ID – 360498)</p> <p>2025 Annual Report, Appendix 25 – Terrestrial Environment Management and Monitoring Plan Report (NIRB Registry ID – 360500)</p>
<b>Comment:</b>	<p><b>Integration of arsenic trends across environmental media would help inform ongoing arsenic management, mitigation and monitoring at the project site.</b></p> <p>The 2025 Annual Monitoring Report and supporting appendices include several types of arsenic monitoring. The Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) reports increasing arsenic concentrations in Lake B7, with arsenic exceeding the AEMP Action Level in all 2025 samples and increasing trends over time. This suggests that the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) could be the source, with some contribution from regional climate factors. The AEMP also indicates that Meliadine Lake water quality remained below drinking water and aquatic life guidelines in 2025.</p> <p>The 2025 Terrestrial Environment Management and Monitoring Plan (TEMMP) soil and vegetation monitoring program assessed metals, including arsenic, across multiple environmental media, including soil, leaves, berries, lichen, and snow. The TEMMP reports that arsenic concentrations in some media decreased with distance from the Mine or the All-weather Access Road (AWAR), and that multimedia analyses were used to examine relationships between soil, snow, and plant materials. These results help evaluate potential dust deposition, uptake into vegetation and lichen, and possible exposure pathways over time.</p> <p>As arsenic-related findings are presented across separate monitoring programs, it is unclear how arsenic results and trends in aquatic</p>

	media, terrestrial media, snow, and air/dust monitoring are being evaluated collectively to determine whether trends are localized, naturally occurring, or project-related, and whether any follow-up consideration of exposure pathways (e.g., country foods) is warranted.
<b>Conclusion/Request:</b>	Health Canada requests that the 2026 Annual Report integrate arsenic specific findings from the AEMP, TEMMP, and air/dust monitoring programs. This would support a more fulsome review of arsenic monitoring results and help determine whether future changes may warrant additional human health consideration.

<b>Comment Number:</b>	HC-02
<b>Subject/Topic:</b>	Noise
<b>References:</b>	2025 Annual Report, Appendix 23 – 2025 Noise Monitoring Report (NIRB Registry ID – 360499)
<b>Comment:</b>	<p><b>Clearer reporting on noise data limitations and source attribution would support interpretation of exceedances and long-term review of potential community exposure.</b></p> <p>The Noise Monitoring Report notes that measured 24-hour <math>L_{eq}</math> (equivalent continuous sound level) values exceeded FEIS predictions at NPOR006a, NPOR008, and NPOR017a during the 2025 monitoring period. Measured values also exceeded the noise monitoring criterion at NPOR008 and NPOR017a. The Report also indicates that sound recordings were not available in 2025. As a result, the ability to confirm source attribution and apply secondary filtering for noise sources not representative of regular mine-related activity was limited.</p> <p>The report attributes the 2025 exceedances to likely or potential contributing factors, including locally elevated wind conditions, helicopter overflights, nearby mine activity, and one short-duration intense noise event at NPOR017a. However, because sound recordings were not available, the source of these contributions could not be confirmed. The report also concludes that higher 2025 <math>L_{eq}</math> values are more likely related to data processing limitations than to an actual increase in mine-related sound levels, and states that no noise-related complaints have been received for the Meliadine Mine.</p> <p>Clearer documentation of data limitations, source attribution uncertainty, and the interpretation of exceedances would support</p>



	Health Canada's ability to review and track noise exposure trends over time.
<b>Conclusion/Request:</b>	Health Canada requests that future annual reports clearly describe noise data limitations, source attribution considerations, including the availability of sound recordings, and the interpretation of exceedances relative to potential community exposure. Where exceedances are attributed to non-routine or non-representative sources, confirmed and inferred sources should be clearly identified, and the interpretation of the results for long-term noise monitoring and community well-being considerations explained.