

Appendix G4

ECCC Approval for reduced frequency testing



Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Prairie and Northern Region
Eastgate Offices
9250 – 49th Street, NW
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 1K5

March 15, 2016

Our File: 7834-3-37/A350-2

Via Email

Ms. Manon Turmel
Senior Environmental Compliance Technician
Meadowbank Gold project –
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Meadowbank Division
Baker Lake, Nunavut, Canada
X0C 0A0

Dear Ms. Turmel:

RE: Response to Notification of intention to reduce frequency of testing of deleterious substances in column 1 of MMER from the East Dike & Vault final discharge points – Meadowbank Gold Mine project

Thank you for your letter dated February 29, 2016 notifying Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) that Meadowbank Gold Mine project located in Nunavut and operated by Agnico-Eagle Mines (Agnico) intends to reduce the frequency of testing of Radium 226 from the East Dike final discharge point (FDP) and Vault final discharge point after concentration of Radium 226 was less than 0.037 Bq/L in 10 consecutive tests conducted under section 12 in accordance with the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations (MMER) section 13(2).

ECCC acknowledges your notification and accepts your intention to reduce frequency of testing of Radium 226 from the East Dike and Vault final discharge points.

Agnico has also proposed to reduce the frequency for testing effluent collected from East Dike final discharge point for arsenic, copper, cyanide, lead, nickel and zinc (items 1 to 6 on Schedule 4). ECCC notes that section 13(1) of the MMER states that sampling must be done not less than once in each calendar quarter if that substance's monthly mean concentration in the effluent collected from that final discharge point is less than 10% of the value set out in column 2 (maximum authorized monthly mean concentration) of that Schedule for the 12 months immediately preceding the most recent test.

ECCC has reviewed Agnico's request and the table of results from East Dike final discharge point sampling over the last 12 months. ECCC notes that there was no discharge during July 2015 and no sample was collected; therefore, Agnico has not fulfilled the required sampling in the 12 months immediately preceding the most recent test as required under section 13(1) of the MMER. Further, Agnico also did not fulfill the requirements as indicated in section 16(1) and section 17(1) of the MMER.

As a result, ECCC cannot agree to the proposed reduction in sampling frequency for items 1 to 6 on Schedule 4. Agnico is advised to continue sampling at the frequency required by section 12(1) of the MMER.

The ECCC inspector for your facility is David MacDonald. Mr. MacDonald can be reached at 867-975-4984 or david.macdonald3@canada.ca. The Inspector is to be notified, without delay, in the event that:

- authorized conditions for release of effluent are not met (section 24);
- there is a need for temporary relief in sampling (section 25); or
- there has been an occurrence of a deposit out of the normal course of events (section 29).

ECCC reminds Agnico that in the event sampling frequency is reduced under section 13(2), the owner or operator must increase the frequency of testing to that prescribed in section 12 for a deleterious substance that is set out in any of items 1 to 6 or 8 of Schedule 4 if the substance's monthly mean concentration is greater than 10% of the value set out in column 2 of these items.

Should you have any other questions about the MMER, please contact Reg Ejeckam, Mining Projects Officer, at (204) 984-3522 or reg.ejeckam@canada.ca.

Sincerely,



Susanne Forbrich
Regional Director
Regional Authorization Officer

cc: David MacDonald - ECCC Enforcement Officer
Paula Siwik - EEM Regional Coordinator
RISS Administrator (RISS.SITDR@ec.gc.ca)
Reg Ejeckam - Mining Project Officer for the region



Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Prairie and Northern Region
Eastgate Offices
9250 – 49th Street, NW
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 1K5

September 15, 2016

By email

Ms. Marie-Pier Marcil
Senior Environmental Compliance Technician
Meadowbank Gold project –
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
Meadowbank Division
Baker Lake, Nunavut X0C 0A0

Dear Ms. Marcil,

RE: Response to Notification of Intention to Reduce Frequency of Testing of Deleterious Substances in Column 1 of MMER and Conducting Acute Lethality Tests from the East Dike – Meadowbank Gold Mine project

Thank you for your letter dated August 19, 2016, notifying Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) that Meadowbank Gold Mine project located in Nunavut and operated by Agnico-Eagle Mines intends to reduce frequency of testing pursuant to section 13(1); 16(1) and 17(1) of the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations (MMER).

ECCC acknowledges your notification and has reviewed Agnico's request and the table of results from East Dike final discharge point sampling over the last 12 months. ECCC accepts your intention to reduce frequency testing of:

- a) effluent collected from a final discharge point for deleterious substances that is set out in any of items 1 to 6 [arsenic, copper, cyanide, lead, nickel, zinc] in column 1 of Schedule 4 to not less than once in each calendar quarter, if that substance's monthly mean concentration in the effluent collected from that final discharge point is less than 10% of the value set out in column 2 [maximum authorized monthly mean concentration] of that Schedule for the 12 months immediately preceding the most recent test;
- b) conducting acute lethality tests prescribed in paragraph 14(1)(a) to once in each calendar quarter, if the effluent is determined not to be acutely lethal over a period of 12 consecutive months (section 16(1)); also
- c) conducting *Daphnia magna* monitoring tests in accordance with the procedure set out in section 5 or 6 of Reference Method EPS 1/RM/14 at the same time that the acute lethality tests are conducted under section 14, 15 or 16 of these Regulations (section 17(1)).

The ECCC inspector for your facility is Dave MacDonald. Mr. MacDonald can be reached at 867-975-4984 or david.macdonald3@canada.ca. The Inspector is to be notified without delay, in the event that: authorized conditions for release of effluent are not met (s. 24); there is a need for temporary relief in sampling (s. 25); or, there has been an occurrence of a deposit out of the normal course of events (s. 29).

ECCC reminds Agnico that in the event that sampling frequency is reduced under section 13(2), the owner or operator must increase the frequency of testing to that prescribed in section 12 for a deleterious substance that is set out in any of items 1 to 6 or 8 of Schedule 4, if the substance's monthly mean concentration is greater than 10% of the value set out in column 2 of these items.

Should you have any other questions about the MMER, please contact Reg Ejeckam, Mining Projects Officer at (204) 984-3522 or reg.ejeckam@canada.ca.

Sincerely,



Susanne Forbrich,
Regional Director and Authorization Officer

cc:
David MacDonald - ECCC Enforcement Officer
Paula Siwik - EEM Regional Coordinator
RISS Administrator (RISS.SITDR@ec.gc.ca)
Reg Ejeckam - Mining Project Officer for the region