



**AGNICO EAGLE**

**MEADOWBANK COMPLEX**

Meadowbank and Whale Tail  
Bulk Fuel Storage Facility:  
Environmental Performance  
Monitoring Plan

**JUNE 2022**

**VERSION 7**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited – Meadowbank Complex (Agnico Eagle) is currently operating the Whale Tail Pit and Haul Road (Project), a satellite deposit located on the Amaruq property, to continue mine operations and milling at the Meadowbank Mine.

The Amaruq property is a 408 square kilometer (km<sup>2</sup>) site located on Inuit Owned Land approximately 150 kilometers (km) north of the hamlet of Baker Lake and approximately 50 km northwest of Meadowbank Mine in the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut. The deposits are mined as an open pit (i.e., Whale Tail Pit and IVR Pit), and ore is hauled to the approved infrastructure at Meadowbank Mine for milling. The project includes an underground development ramp/portal including equipment and associate facilities.

As part of the project, one - 5.6 million liters bulk fuel storage tank was constructed to store diesel fuel for routine operations at the mine site in 2009 and an additional 3.3 ML fuel tank to added, one - 1.5 million liters bulk fuel storage tank was built at the Whale Tail Pit site, and an additional 500,000 L tank is to be built. This document provides the details for the Meadowbank and Whale Tail Pit Bulk Fuel Storage Facility Environmental Performance Monitoring Plan required by Water License 2AM-MEA1530 Part B, Item 13(m) and 2AM-WTP1830 Part B, Item 14 (f).

To adequately assess the environmental performance of the bulk fuel storage tank at Meadowbank and Whale Tail Pit, and the construction and operation of the planned additional tank farm, this report provides: a summary of the design, installation, operation and maintenance that follows the CCME (2003) Environmental Code of Practice for Aboveground Storage Tank Systems Containing Petroleum and Allied Petroleum Products; a summary of the location and environmental setting; a summary of the NWB Type A water license requirements; and an environmental assessment to support the recommended environmental monitoring for the ongoing evaluation of the secondary containment.



## **IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE**

As required by Water License 2AM-MEA1530 and 2AM-WTP1830, the proposed implementation schedule for this Plan is effective upon approval and subject to any modifications proposed by the NIRB and NWB as a result of the review and approval process.

## **DISTRIBUTION LIST**

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Agnico Eagle – Field Services Supervisor

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**DOCUMENT CONTROL**

Version	Date (YMD)	Section	Page	Revision
1	09/12/22			Comprehensive plan for Meadowbank Bulk Fuel Storage Facility
2	14/06/30			Comprehensive review of the plan
3	16/06/02			Addition of the Whale Tail Pit site and Whale Tail Pit haul road to the Plan
4	19/03/31	All	All	Update to reflect current Whale Tail Operations and storage capacity
5	20/07/03	Throughout	Throughout	Updated following issuance of Type A Water Licence Amendments 2AM-MEA1530 and 2AM-WTP1830 for one comprehensive management plan
6	21/03/13	All	All	Update to reflect current Whale Tail Operations and storage capacity
7	22/06/23	1, 2.1 2.2		Update to reflect Type A Water Licence 2AM-MEA1530 Modification for addition of a 3.3 ML fuel tank on-site  Changes are reflected with an arrow in the right margin of the document 

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## Section 1 INTRODUCTION

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Agnico Eagle Mines Limited – Meadowbank Complex (Agnico Eagle) is operating the Meadowbank Gold Project and Whale Tail Pit (a Meadowbank satellite deposit located on the Amaruq property). The Meadowbank Project includes the Baker Lake Marshalling Area, the All-weather Access Road (AWAR), the Meadowbank Mine site, the Whale Tail and IVR pits and the Whale Tail Haul Road.

One 5.6 million liters bulk fuel storage tank was constructed to provide diesel fuel for routine operations at the Meadowbank mine site, and one 1.5 ML tank was built at Whale Tail. As part of a modification to the Meadowbank Type A Water Licence, a new 3.3 ML fuel tank will be added next to the existing tank and Agnico Eagle will modify the secondary containment area so that the two tanks will share the new containment space. In addition, Agnico Eagle is planning to add 500,000 L to the Whale Tail bulk fuel storage tank as well as other locations around site (i.e., Vent raises, Underground Powerplant, Cement Rockfill Plant), for a total site capacity of 3.325 ML.

To adequately assess the environmental performance of the bulk fuel storage tanks at Meadowbank and Whale Tail this report provides:

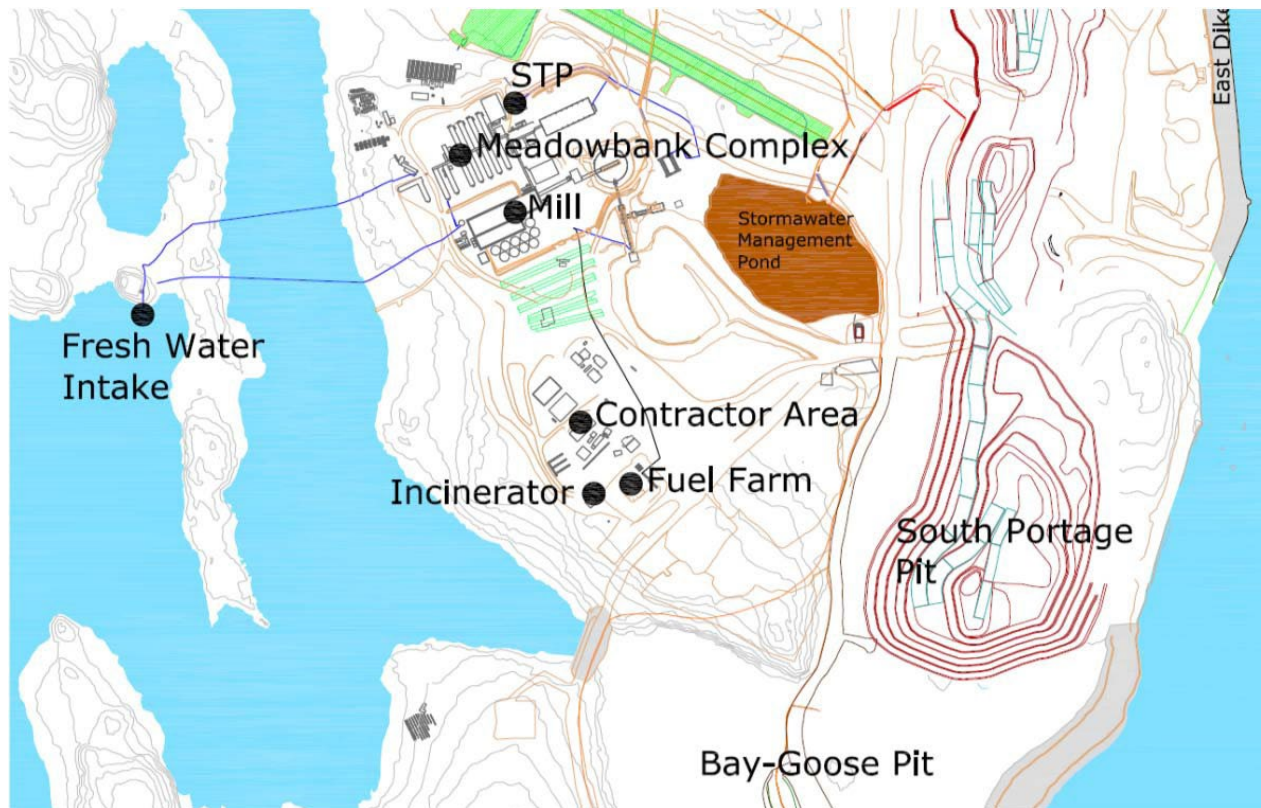
- a summary of the design, installation, operation and maintenance that follows the CCME (2003) Environmental Code of Practice for Aboveground Storage Tank Systems Containing Petroleum and Allied Petroleum Products;
- a summary of the location and environmental setting;
- a summary of the NWB Type A water license 2AM-MEA1530 and 2AM-WTP1830 requirements; and
- an environmental assessment to support the recommended environmental monitoring for the ongoing evaluation of the secondary containment.

## Section 2 SITE LOCATION, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

### 2.1 SITE LOCATION

The Meadowbank Bulk Fuel Storage Facility is located at Meadowbank, east of the main camp facilities adjacent to the mine operations haul road. There is one (1) above ground storage tank with approximately 5.6 million liters capacity and one (1) 3.3 million liters capacity. The GPS coordinates of the facility is NAD83 14W E 0638083 N 7214288. The general location of the tank farm is provided in Figure 2-1 below. ←

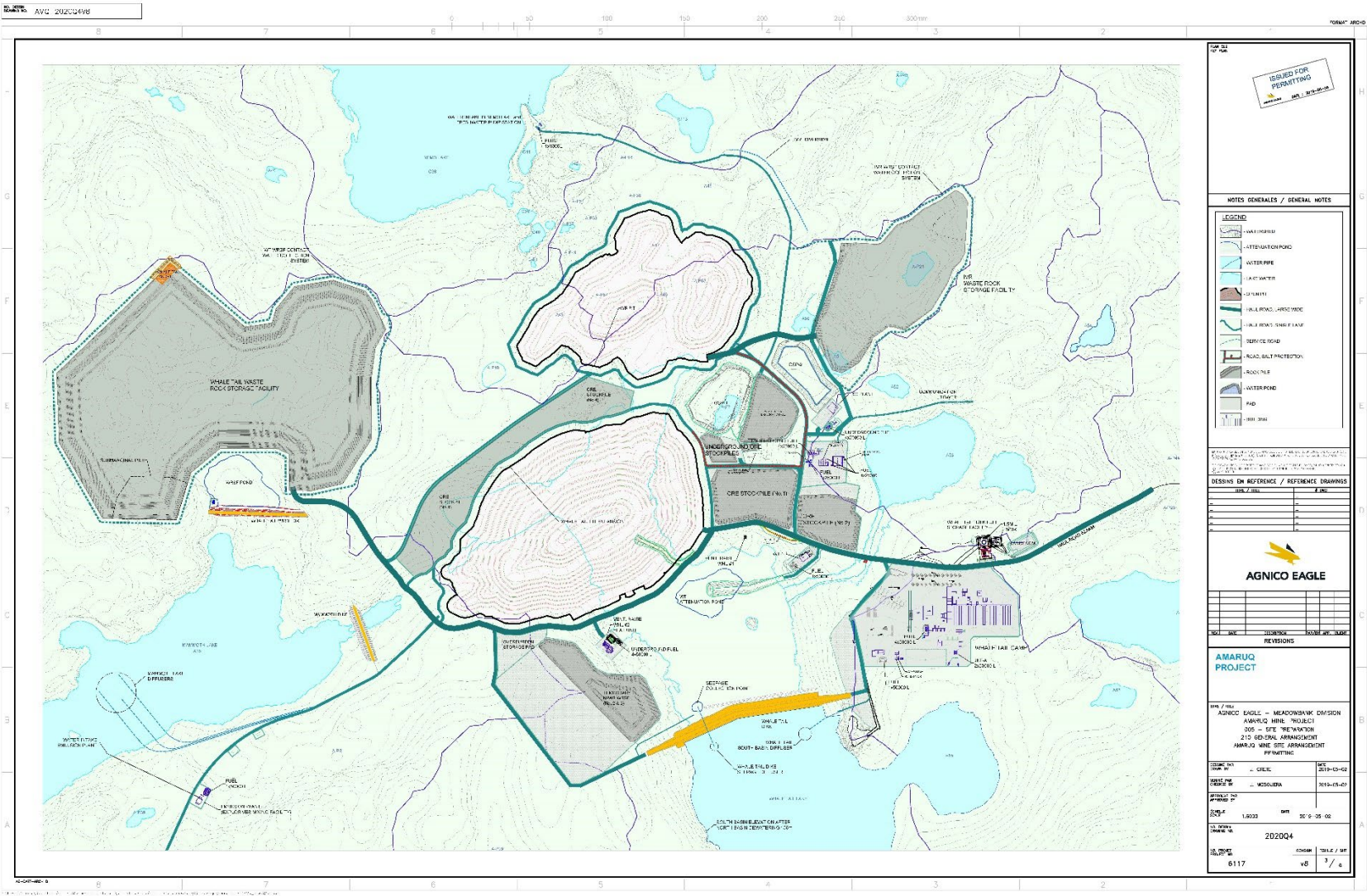
**Figure 2-1. Location Meadowbank Tank Farm**



The Whale Tail Fuel Storage Facility is located at the Whale Tail satellite open pit, approximately 50 km west of the Meadowbank site. One 1.5 ML tank was built. The tank is in a berm and lined area and its location is shown in Figure 2-2.



Figure 2-2. Location of Whale Tail Fuel Storage



## 2.2 DESIGN AND INSTALLATION SUMMARY

Following regulatory approval, during the summer of 2008 Agnico Eagle built the bulk fuel tank and respective secondary containment with a capacity of 5.6 million liters (AEM, 2009). The secondary containment enclosure and HDPE liner was installed in accordance with CCME (2003) specifications. The aboveground storage tanks were field erected. Construction activity was supervised by Hatch Engineering and Stavibel Engineering and included qualified steel fabricators and membrane installers. The diesel fuel tank is single-walled and constructed of welded steel. In addition, aviation fuel is stored in two 50,000 L double-walled steel tanks adjacent to the airstrip. Additionally, in the summer of 2015, an aboveground pipe was installed in accordance with CEPA (2008) specifications to supply fuel from the bulk fuel tank to the main Meadowbank power plant. Similar design and installation practices will be followed for the 3.3 ML fuel tank. The 5.6 million litre tank and the 3.3 million litre tank will share a secondary containment space.

Similarly, for the Whale Tail Pit site, diesel fuel originating from the Baker Lake Tank Farm is stored in one 1,500,000 L tank with secondary containment. An additional above ground 500,000 L storage tank will be built in the current Whale Tail Pit Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. Fuel from this storage tank will be delivered to the power plants by above ground pipes or redistributed to different on-site storage tanks by an on-site tanker. Tanks were/will also be installed at the following locations as part of the Whale Tail Pit Project:

Whale Tail Storage Tanks	
In place	To be built
- 1 x 50,000L at the Emulsion Plant	-
- 4 x 50,000 L at the Permanent Camp Genset	- 1 x 50,000L at the CRF Plant/Vent Raise IVR2
- 3 x 2,500 L at the Sana Garage	-
- 2 x 25,000 L at the Maintenance shop	- 4 x 50,000L at the Saline Water Treatment Plant
- 1 x 25,000 L at the Service Building	- 1 x 50,000L at the Whale Tail Vent Raise #1/Cement Rockfill Plant
- 1 x 50,000 L (Jet-A) at the Industrial Pad	- 4 x 50,000L at the Whale Tail Vent Raise #2
- 4 x 50,000L + 1 x 25,000L at the underground powerplant	
- 1 x 50,000L underground filing station	
- 2 x 5,000 L at the Water Treatment Plant	
- 1 x 1,500L at the Freshwater Intake	
- 1 x 5,000 at the warehouse	

Note: To provide flexibility on-site, non-fixed tanks may be moved around site as needed, and in some cases fixed tanks may also change over time

A total of 3,325,000 L was/will be installed at Whale Tail.

All tanks will be built/installed in accordance with the CCME Environmental Code of Practice for Aboveground Storage Tank Systems Containing Petroleum and Allied Petroleum Products (2003).

The Whale Tail Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and additional storage tanks are shown in Figure 2-2.

### **2.3 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE SUMMARY**

Inventory control of transfer and monthly volume inspections using manual or electronic dip reconciliation are conducted at Meadowbank and at the Whale Tail Pit by operations staff at the respective sites. Weekly inspections are logged and reported by Agnico Eagle. Weekly visual inspections and inventory reconciliation are used to evaluate and determine bulk fuel tank leakage at Meadowbank and Whale Tail.

The bulk fuel storage facilities are maintained in accordance with best management practices. The bulk fuel tanks at Meadowbank and Whale Tail Pit are re-filled by a fuel truck on a regular basis throughout the year. During the period of re-filling, there is the greatest risk of over-filling. Through regular visual inspections, inventory control and monitoring fuel transfer, the risk of over-filling is significantly reduced. In the case of a spill, the Spill Contingency Plan will be implemented.

## **Section 3 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

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### **3.1 TOPOGRAPHY**

The surrounding area of the Meadowbank site and Whale Tail site consists of low, rolling hills with many small lakes; Third Portage Lake is located to the south and Second Portage Lake to the north. The bulk fuel storage tank at Meadowbank is bound to the north by the mine site, a haul road to the east, and the incinerator and waste management area to the south. The surface water drainage at the bulk fuel storage facility is towards the storm water management pond to the north.

The topography of the Whale Tail area differs a little from that of Meadowbank. The tank farm is located northeast of the camp as shown in Figure 2-2. The water drainage at the Whale Tail Pit bulk fuel storage facility is towards IVR Attenuation Pond.

### **3.2 GEOLOGY**

The two fuel storage sites have a thin, discontinuous cover of topsoil with minimal organic material. Soil thickness is typically between 1 and 5 m below which bedrock is encountered. In the area near the Meadowbank and Whale Tail Pit bulk fuel farm, bedrock is encountered within 2m of existing ground surface or is exposed with weathered fractures extending 1 to 2 m into the rock.

### **3.3 FLORA AND FAUNA**

There are no trees and few shrubs in the area surrounding the Meadowbank and Whale Tail sites. The sites are covered by low-lying vegetation; predominated by grassy hummocks, dwarf willow, sedge, green moss, and lichen.

Arctic ground squirrels, ptarmigan and songbirds are inhabitants in the area surrounding the fuel storage areas. Lake trout, arctic char, lake whitefish, round whitefish, slimy sculpin, and stickleback are predominant fish species found in local lakes.

### **3.4 SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS**

At the two sites, soil is characterized by lateral deposits of glacial till. Bedrock is exposed at shallow depths throughout the sites. There is high site drainage due to limited soil depth, high presence of fractured bedrock and glacial till.

### **3.5 WATER QUALITY**

Water quality closely resembles distilled water as many conventional water chemistry parameters are at or below detection limits. The water column is generally well mixed and the water chemistry homogenous. During the open water season there is limited vertical stratification in temperature and dissolved oxygen.

#### **Section 4 NWB TYPE A WATER LICENSE CONDITIONS**

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Agnico Eagle will continue to adhere and will apply the conditions of the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Type A water license 2AM-MEA1530 and 2AM-WTP1830 requirements, related to the Meadowbank mine site bulk fuel storage facility and the Whale Tail Pit Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. Agnico Eagle is committed to achieving all these requirements at Meadowbank, and at Whale Tail.

## **Section 5 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

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To adequately assess the environmental performance of the Meadowbank bulk fuel storage tanks and facilities, a desktop review of the Meadowbank Fuel Storage Installations: Final Report (Agnico Eagle, 2009) was completed. In addition, on October 26, 2009 Agnico Eagle environmental personnel completed a site inspection to visually evaluate the site drainage, tank construction, and secondary containment and performed an environmental assessment of the bulk fuel storage facility. A geotechnical inspection is also conducted annually by an external qualified engineer at the bulk fuel storage facilities. The report included observations, photos, and recommendations.

A similar level of assessment was carried out at Whale Tail Pit once the fuel storage facilities were in place and will be re-done once the facility expansion for the Whale Tail Pit Project is implemented.

### **5.1 DESK-TOP REPORT REVIEW OF THE MEADOWBANK BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY**

The Meadowbank bulk fuel storage facility was commissioned in January 2009. The installation report (Agnico Eagle, 2009) indicated the use of best management practices during the installation of the aboveground fuel storage tank. Following the tank construction, X-Ray testing of horizontal and vertical welds was completed. All the welds met the specifications outlined in the API Standard 650 (Agnico Eagle, 2009). A similar approach was used at the Whale Tail tank farm (SNC, 2019).

Under the supervision of Hatch Engineering and Stavibel Engineering, the construction of the secondary containment berm was completed for the tank. Enviroline Services Inc. was hired in October 2008 to install the HDPE membrane liner in accordance with CCME (2003) specifications; this liner was subsequently covered with a surface layer of crushed stone.

A secondary containment volume calculation using AutoCAD Civil 3D was completed to provide verification on the liquid storage capacity of the storage tank system. The CCME Environmental Code of Practice for Aboveground Storage Tanks (2003) states:

*a storage tank system that consists of more than one storage tank which should have a volumetric capacity of not less than the sum of the capacity of the largest storage tank located in the contained space and 10% of the capacity of the largest tank or the aggregate capacity of all other storage tanks located in the contained space.*

In accordance with the CCME (2003) code of practice, the Meadowbank bulk fuel storage tank meets the volumetric requirements for a storage tank system (Agnico Eagle, 2009). The Whale Tail bulk fuel storage tanks are also constructed to meet CCME (2003) code of practice, as will the expansion of the facility.

In the summer of 2009, a 4-inch below-ground pipe was installed to supply fuel from the Bulk Fuel storage tank to the Meadowbank main power plant. The pipe was installed according to the CEPA (2008) regulations.

## **5.2 SECONDARY CONTAINMENT VISUAL INSPECTIONS**

A consultant performs a geotechnical inspection annually and inspects the bulk fuel secondary containment structures at the Meadowbank and Whale Tail Bulk Fuel Storage Facilities, the report is sent to NWB annually.

## **5.3 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

The management at the site drainage, surface water collection, and water/fuel removal within the secondary containment area is an important measure in the protection of the terrestrial environment, surface water, and ground water from potential sources of contamination. The environmental protection objectives, strategy, and an evaluation of the potential of leaks or seepage that could contaminate the terrestrial environment, surface water and ground water are provided in the following sections. Much of the environmental protection strategies focus on the control of contact water. In this report contact water is defined as any water that may be physically or chemically affected by the nearby operational activities.

At Meadowbank and Whale Tail Pit, the bermed and lined tank farm provides secondary containment. If fuel escapes from the tanks holding the fuel, the bermed and lined area will not allow the fuel to escape to the receiving terrestrial and aquatic environment. As there is expected to be a high volume of fuel transfer and activity around the modular fuel dispenser and refueling station, inadvertent fuel spills during refueling are expected but will be retained on the impermeable, lined pad. The liner is sloped such that any fuel spilled on the pad would flow to a sump where it collects and can be recovered.

### **5.3.1 Terrestrial Environment**

The primary objective of the terrestrial management plan is to minimize any adverse impacts to the terrestrial (soil, flora, and fauna) environment. To meet this objective, the Meadowbank and Whale Tail Pit bulk fuel storage facility structures have been constructed, to minimize the operational footprint and control contact run-off water within the secondary containment area. Due to the site grading, all water that comes into contact with the bulk fuel storage facility (including the modular fuel dispenser) is intercepted and directed into the impermeable HDPE lined secondary containment area.

The ground beneath the secondary containment area has been graded to ensure berm stability.

### **5.3.2 Surface Water**

The objective of water management around the Meadowbank and Whale Tail bulk fuel storage facilities is to minimize impacts on the quantity and quality of surface water and groundwater. To meet this objective, the bulk fuel storage facility structures have been constructed to intercept and direct contact run-off water to the impermeable HDPE lined secondary containment area. As there is a high

volume of fuel transfer and activity around the modular fuel dispenser, the pad below the modular fuel dispenser and refueling station is lined and sloped toward the secondary containment berm.

Due to the high compaction of the surrounding mine site pad, natural topography of the site, shallow top soil and predominate bedrock, should contact water reach the natural environment at Meadowbank, the ultimate fate of the contaminants is to the stormwater management pond.

### **5.3.3 Groundwater**

It is not expected that groundwater would be impacted as there is no direct pathway for contaminated water to seep from the Meadowbank and Whale Tail bulk fuel storage facilities. Due to the site grading, all contact water from the bulk fuel storage facility is directed inside the HDPE lined secondary containment area. Should the integrity of the liner become compromised, there could be leakage into the below grade soil, which is within a zone of continuous permafrost.



## **Section 6 PERFORMANCE MONITORING PLAN**

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The environmental performance monitoring plan is a tiered approach with an emphasis on visual and operational inspections; routine surface water sampling to control and monitor the quality of the contact water; and event monitoring (in the case of a spill emergency or occurrence). Management of the Meadowbank and Whale Tail fuel storage facilities will be guided by the monitoring results.

### **6.1 VISUAL AND OPERATIONAL INSPECTIONS**

Visual and operational inspections are a central component of the environmental performance monitoring plan. Visual inspections of the Meadowbank and Whale Tail secondary containment structures are important because if the integrity of the berm walls or liner is compromised, this presents the greatest potential for leaks or seepage.

Visual inspections are conducted by the environmental department once per week and monthly manual or electronic dip tests are conducted for inventory reconciliation by Procurement Department. Staff will inspect the bulk fuel storage facilities pad for: tank and piping condition, secondary containment berm structure and integrity, indicators of liner damage, precipitation/ run-off accumulation, evidence of tampering or misuse, any structural abnormalities and visible sheens on contact water pools and crush material inside the secondary containment.

The Environment staff will follow-up with the Energy and Infrastructures Department if any non-compliances are observed. A weekly written inspection sheet will continue to be completed and signed by the E&I supervisor and available upon request.

### **6.2 ROUTINE CONTACT WATER MONITORING**

Due to snow accumulation, melting and precipitation, contact water is unavoidably collected inside the secondary containment area of the Bulk Fuel Storage Facilities. Contact water from inside the secondary containment area is sampled as described below before being discharged. The water accumulated in the Meadowbank and Whale Tail secondary containment will be released in accordance with the Type A Water License 2AM-MEA1530, Part F Item 9 to 12, and 2AM-WTP1830, Part F Item 8 to 12 conditions.

During visual inspections the quantity of contact water collected inside the secondary containment area and sump will be evaluated. If water withdrawal to the environment is deemed necessary at the Bulk Fuel Storage Facilities, water samples will be collected and analyzed for the following parameters as per Water License 2AM-MEA1530 Part F Item 9 and 2AM-WTP1830 Part F Item 8): Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Lead, and Oil and Grease. Prior to withdrawal, samples will be analyzed at a certified laboratory and the 10-day notice will be sent to the inspector (as per 2AM-MEA1530 Part F Item 13 and 2AM-WTP1830 Part F, Item 14).

In addition, water samples from lakes near the Meadowbank and Whale Tail Pit site are collected as part of the Core Receiving Environmental Monitoring Plan (CREMP) and Aquatic Environmental

Management Plan. The results of these analyzes will continue to be included in the annual report. These samples are used to evaluate the performance of the overall water management plan for the Meadowbank and Whale Tail sites.

### **6.3 EVENT MONITORING**

In the event of a spill occurrence at fuel storage facilities, the Spill Contingency Plan will be followed. As a follow-up to the spill response, the environmental staff will conduct an environmental assessment to determine the extent of impacts of the spill occurrence on the nearby environment. This will include the identification of the potential environmental pathways of concern that may result in impacts to surface water (i.e. Third Portage Lake near-shore surface water or east channel that drains into Whale Tail Lake (South Basin)), soil or groundwater.

#### **6.3.1 Soil Sampling**

Following the unlikely event where a spill is not contained within the secondary containment area or on the lined pad, soil sampling may be required to locate and prevent further impact to the terrestrial and aquatic receiving environment. Depending on the quantity of the spill, the organic surface soils and shallow till are a likely sink for hydrocarbons, thus soil samples will be taken at selected locations to horizontally and vertically delineate the impacted areas. Furthermore, the soil samples will provide valuable information used to determine the necessity of installing groundwater wells (see Section 6.3.3 below).

#### **6.3.2 Water Sampling**

Following a spill event escaping secondary containment, an environmental assessment will be conducted. Similar to routine contact water sampling (inside the secondary containment area or on the lined pad), water samples will be collected and analyzed as per Water License 2AM-MEA1530 Part F Item 9 and 2AM-WTP1830 Part F Item 8 for the following parameters: Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Lead, and Oil and Grease. Prior to withdrawal, samples will be analyzed at a certified laboratory. As part of the CREMP, receiving environment surface and at-depth water samples will be taken from Third Portage Lake or Whale Tail Lake, and analyzed for the same parameters as listed above.

#### **6.3.3 Assessment of the Need for Groundwater Well Installation**

Following a spill event escaping secondary containment, if soil sample results identify elevated concentrations of contaminants (i.e., exceeding the CCME Canada-Wide Standard (CWS) for Petroleum Hydrocarbons (PHC) in Soil) and/or if water samples identify elevated receiving environment water samples (i.e., exceeding licensed limits caused as a result of the spill event), an assessment of the need for groundwater wells will be conducted. The assessment, and if required, design for installation, monitoring and maintenance of vertical ground water monitoring wells will be in accordance with CCME (2003) procedures.

## **Section 7 REFERENCES**

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