July 7, 2015 Overpad Sulfur Spill

Please find the following information as a follow up to the Spill report submitted July 8th, 2015 by Agnico Eagle Meadowbank division. This detailed report is submitted to the Inspector in compliance with the conditions under the Nunavut Water Board License 2AM-MEA0815, Part H, Item 9c.

Cause of Spill

After investigation it was found that the bottom of the container was rusted and could not withhold the weight of the load during transfer. It was also found to be slippery because of ice accumulation underneath. Because of the aforementioned factors, the container handler could not hold it upright and it fell on its side. Spillage occurred when the container was put back upright, exposing gaps and openings.

Spill

All spilled sulfur prills was contained at the overpad area. No watercourses are in the vicinity and there was no off site impact or discharge to any receiving watercourses.

There were 20 bags of 1000 kg inside the container. The equivalent of 19 bags was brought back to the Mill and immediately put back in the process. The remainder, roughly 1000 kg, consisted of the original spilled material and product lost during transfer.

Remediation

Clean up was immediately started by collecting fallen prills around area. Upon opening the door of the container, salvageable bags and products were put into an empty container and brought to the Mill for process use.

All products lost in the process of removing bags and the original spilled material was then put in a roll-off to be disposed of at the landfill. Soil was added on top of the material to ensure that nothing gets windblown during transport. Roll-off was cleaned once emptied at disposal location. Everything was then covered with NPAG material to prevent further exposure to the product. The damaged container was brushed clean and also brought to the landfill.

Photo of area after clean-up was completed.

Prevention

A complete investigation is underway to assess sources of this incident. All concerned department are involved in this process. First conclusion noted that it was not caused by an operator error but rather by the state of the container. This was most probably created by snow and ice accumulation underneath which then led to corrosion and affected the integrity of the container.

To prevent any similar incident,

Short term : containers that are stored at ground level over winter will be inspected before handling. This includes also an assessment of the bottom portion for any signs of damage and/or rust.

Mid/long term : storage/placement of containers on site, especially related to chemicals, will be re-evaluated to see if minimizing the possibility of corrosion is possible. This could include, for example and not necessarily : storing selected containers on second/third row, putting block under them so they are not in contact with the ground, and so forth.

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