

April 12th, 2016 MBK tankfarm fuel spill

Please find the following information as a follow up to the Spill report submitted April 12th, 2016 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-MEA1525, Part H, Item 8c.

Spill Description

On April 12th, 2016, a Qamanittuaq fuel truck was filling up at the Meadowbank tankfarm when the operator realized that diesel fuel was spilling from the opening on top of the truck.

There were no off site impact or discharge to any receiving watercourses.

Cause of Spill

The spill was caused by the inattention of the driver who left the area, without visual contact, for a period of time. When he came back to the truck, fuel was already leaking on the ground from the top opening.

Remediation Actions

The operator stopped the pump at the tankfarm and started laying absorbent pads on the ground. He then called for assistance. With windy conditions, the absorbent pads were hard to keep on the ground. They were taken out and snow was used as containment and absorbent material. Once the truck was wiped clean and could be safely removed from the area, more snow was added.

The area was then cleaned with a loader. Contaminated snow and soil was brought to the TSF and absorbent pads were properly disposed of.



Area with added snow before clean-up



Area after clean-up

Corrective measures

An investigation was done for the incident by the contractor involved (Qamanittuaq); conclusion mentions that the operator did not follow the procedure for filling fuel trucks. A physical presence has to be maintained at all times during refueling operations. If, for any reason, a worker has to leave the area during this type of work, the pump, and therefore refilling process, has to be completely stopped.

Among corrective measures mentioned:

- An individual meeting was held with the employee to remind him of the procedures and identify impacts of not following best practices.
- All the staff involved in refueling work was met and reminded of procedure and informed of the incident to avoid any repeats.
- A discussion was also held between Agnico Eagle representatives and Qamanittuaq supervisors to ensure comprehension of on-site practices.

Closure

We trust that the above details described appropriately the spill incident that occurred at the Meadowbank on April 12th, 2016 and the cleanup activities. Please contact the undersigned should you have any questions.



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