



2019-05-08 MBK South Cell Tailings Spill

GN reference # : 2019-193

Please find the following information as a follow up to the Spill report submitted May 8, 2019 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-MEA1526, Part H, Item 8c.

Spill Description

A planned electrical shutdown of the Tailings storage facility “pig launcher” station occurred on the morning of May 8th. During restart of the system that afternoon, the wrong valve was opened remotely by the Mill Control room, discharging tailings at the top of Saddle Dam 4 by the pig launcher station.



Spill location: N 65 01'27.3'' W 096' 03'43.1''

There were no off site impact or discharge to any receiving watercourses. The distance to the closest lake is estimated at 900 meters.

Cause of Spill

The spill occurred due to miscommunication in the control room and the workers on the field. The discharge pipe should also have been locked out so that in the event a wrong valve was opened, a spill could not occur.

Remediation Actions

Upon discovery of the spill, the valve was immediately closed. The tailings were contained within the existing berm surrounding the area. A second berm was created around the access ramp with clean material to ensure the tailings did not seep outside the existing berm. The contaminated material was then removed and placed back into the South Cell tailings pond.



Corrective measures

An improvement in the communication with the control room, ensuring lock out/tag out on valves will help to prevent a spill in the future.

Closure

We trust that the above details described appropriately the spill incident that occurred at the Meadowbank site on May 8, 2019 and the cleanup activities. Please contact the undersigned should you have any questions.

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