



## 2020-10-06 MBK Dust

GN reference #: 2020-387

Please find the following information as a follow up to the potential event submitted on October 07, 2020 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-MEA1530, Part H, Item 8c and subsection 38(7) of the Fisheries Act.

### Event Description

Agnico Eagle informed regulators about an increase of dust presence on the Meadowbank site, originating from the Tailings Storage Facilities (TSF), specifically North Cell and South Cell. Dust was observed reaching the nearby water bodies of 3rd Portage Lake and 2nd Portage Lake. The increase dust event occurred on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, with smaller scale reoccurrences occurring on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.



View from AWAR looking East over the Tailings Storage Facility

Event origin location: 65° 02'17.1", 96° 04'31.3". Following sample analysis, further detailed in 'Immediate Actions' below, there were no off-site impacts to any receiving watercourses, including Second and Third Portage Lake.

## Cause of Event

There were a few factors identified causing this event. This was the first year since the start of operations, where neither the North nor South Cell were in operation, resulting in dryer tails than usual. The dryness of the tails was further amplified by this year's weather, where a prolonged warm and dry end-of-summer combined with rapid freezing weather in early October created a small particulate layer on the Cells surface. Lastly, there was a period of heavy winds, spreading the dried particulate layer downwind. At closure, a layer of Non-Acid Generating (NAG) rockfill capping will be placed over the tailings to prevent such event. This layer was not placed earlier as additional tailing deposition is planned in the upcoming year(s).

## Immediate Actions

Water trucks were deployed to spread water as much as possible onto the tailings storage facility, in order to suppress the creation of additional dust, and to add moisture to the top layer of the tailings storage facility. Water samples were taken in both Second Portage Lake (SPL), as well as Third Portage Lake (TPL). The water samples were taken on October 7th in SPL, and on October 7th, 13th and 19th in TPL. Limited samples were taken in SPL due to frozen lake shores. All samples present water quality in line with expected values identified in the Core Receiving Environment Monitoring Program. Results of these samples are submitted as an appendix to this report. Core environmental receiving environment sampling will occur in November in these lakes and will be compared to previous months to further confirm no impacts occurred in the receiving environment. Passive air sampling and dust fall collection around site was ongoing, as per the management plan. Results of these samples are not yet available. A team was put in place to evaluate long term solution and mitigate the risk of reoccurrence. Further details can be found in the 'Corrective Measures' section below.



Water truck spreading water on the North Cell

## Corrective measures

A team was put in place to evaluate long term solution and mitigate the risk of reoccurrence. Part of the evaluated scenarios are: additional tailing deposition; installation of water cannons; watering/sprinkler system; dispersion of dust suppressant chemicals or a combination of these methods. The findings will be communicated, as requested by CIRNAC. Furthermore, additional impacts on wildlife and vegetation will be evaluated through a wildlife screening level risk assessment, planned to be completed during the summer of 2021. This consist of evaluating the risk of potential contaminants found in the surrounding environment. The method use is to collect water samples and berries, and analyze the contaminants, if any, found inside.

## Closure

We trust that the above details described appropriately the potential spill incident that occurred at the Meadowbank site on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and the remediation activities. Please contact the undersigned should you have any questions.



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