



2020-12-03 BL 500L Diesel

GN reference #: 2020-450

Please find the following information as a follow up to the Spill report submitted December 3rd, 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.

Spill Description

During operations at Meadowbank, a tanker was refueling at Baker Lake. A tanker operator was filling up the 5th compartment of the vehicle, when the breather had a sudden release of pressure, spilling diesel fuel in the process. The breather was frozen, causing a build-up of pressure within the tanker compartment due to the addition of diesel. The spill occurred in the product transfer area of the tankfarm, fully contained within the secondary containment.



Spill location: 64° 18'26.8" 95° 56'57.8"

There were no off-site impacts or discharge to any receiving watercourses. Distance to the closest water body is 325 meters to Baker Lake.

Cause of Spill

The spill was caused by equipment malfunction, caused by cold weather.

Remediation Actions

Absorbent pads and drums were used to collect and contain the spilt fuel. The 5th compartment of the diesel tanker was emptied into a nearby tanker. Thereafter, 15m³ of contaminated snow and soil was retrieved and disposed in the contaminated soil bin, to be transported to Meadowbank landfarm.



Corrective measures

An internal investigation took place to identify root causes and establish an action plan to mitigate the risks of this kind of event from reoccurring. As a result, a checklist was developed and is in the process of being implemented for operators to use during refueling process to ensure proper functioning of the breather valve, as well as other key components of the refueling process.

Closure

We trust that the above details described appropriately the spill incident that occurred at the Meadowbank site on December 3rd, 2020 and the cleanup activities. Please contact the undersigned should you have any questions.



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