



2022-12-23 MBK 1000L Glycol

GN reference #: 2022-561

Please find the following information as a follow up to the Spill report submitted December 23, 2022, 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 the Meadowbank complex, a code 1 was initiated after visible flames were observed at the warehouse and the Emergency Response Team was called to put out the fire. The adjacent corridor that connects the camp facilities to the warehouse was dismantled to prevent the propagation of the fire to the campsite causing the glycol present in the heating system to leak.



Photo 1: Taken facing Southeast of the Fire



Photo 2: Taken facing North of the Fire



Photo 3: Taken facing South of the Fire



Photo 4: Taken facing Northeast of the Fire

Spill Location: 65° 01' 15.6"N 96° 04' 08.65"W IOL

There were no off-site impacts or discharges. Distance to the closest water body is 360 m to Third Portage Lake.

Cause of Spill

Due to the fire at the dome warehouse, the corridor that connected the warehouse to the main camp had to be dismantled to prevent the propagation of the fire to the camp facilities, damaging the glycol heating system. It was determined by the investigators that the cause of the fire was an electrical equipment failure.

Remediation Actions

- Code 1 was initiated to mobilize the emergency response team.
- The building maintenance team was called immediately to shutdown the heating glycol system and electricity that was feeding the section of the camp affected by the fire.
- The adjacent corridor that connects the camp facilities to the warehouse was dismantled to prevent the propagation of the fire to the campsite causing the glycol present in the heating system to be vaporized into the fire area.
- The time elapse between the call of the maintenance team and the complete shutdown of the glycol system was approximately 35 minutes.
- The zones that were accessible around the incident perimeter were assessed by the environment to evaluate the extend of the contaminated area.
- The visual assessment confirmed the witness's statement that the majority of the glycol had been consumed in the fire and that the remaining contaminant had been mixed with the water used to extinguish the fire, which, ultimately froze around the southern portion of the warehouse.
- Difficulty encountered in establishing a clean-up path forward and starting the decontamination due to the scene being frozen by the WSCC until March 7th.

Decontamination path forward:

- An external firm was hired and is scheduled to come on site in the beginning of April to support AEM field operations in the disassembling of the warehouse structure.
- A plan of the warehouse was designed, illustrating where material such as batteries were stored to ease the waste sorting throughout the dismantling phase.
- Excavate all contaminated material in the surrounding area.
- The debris sorting and contaminated material excavation will be executed under the supervision of the environment department to ensure they are disposed as per AEM management plans (e.g., snow/ice containing glycol will be brought to the tailing storage facility).

Corrective measures

1. Investigation of all work areas for potential fire hazards completed by Health and Safety team
2. Independent fire investigation conducted by specialized firm GESPRO to identify the cause of the fire
3. New temporary warehouse location was inspected prior to use to identify fire hazards
4. Independent fire risk assessment of all Meadowbank Complex buildings was conducted by specialized firm GESPRO

Closure

We trust that the above details described appropriately the spill incident that occurred at the Meadowbank site on December 23rd, 2022. Please contact the undersigned should you have any questions.



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