



2024-05-19 MBK 2m3 Tailings

GN reference #: 2024-170

Please find the following information as a follow up to the Spill report submitted May 20th, 2024, 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 routine maintenance of the tailings line at Meadowbank, a descaling device got stuck in the line. After an assessment of the tailings line to determine the location of the blockage, the tailings line was un-flanged, and air was put into the line to retrieve the device. Upon retrieval of the device, the remaining tailing in the line spilled onto the ground.



Spill Location: N 65'01'11.77" W 96'04'00.97" on IOL

There were no off-site impacts or discharges to any receiving watercourse. Distance to the closest lake is 400m to Third Portage Lake.

Cause of Spill

Blocked pipe

Remediation Actions

The contaminated ditch was initially pumped dry using a vacuum truck. Approximately 8 cubic meters of contaminated soil were then removed and disposed of at the Tailing Storage Facility. Further remediation actions are ongoing, including pressure washing the nearby contaminated infrastructure. Additionally, a combination of a water truck and a vacuum truck will be used for further cleaning of the contaminated ditch.



Corrective measures

An investigation was initiated to determine the root causes of the spill and implement appropriate corrective actions, taking into consideration the findings of a previous similar event. The descaling device supplier was consulted to review the specifications to ensure the optimal device is used for the application. Following the consultation, a new "torpedo" design was ordered from the supplier. As a precautionary measure, no descaling devices will be utilized to prevent a recurrence of the event until the new "torpedo" devices are received. Subsequently, the pipeline design was reviewed, focusing on the elbows to modify the radius ratio, and the slurry pigging procedure was reviewed to incorporate technical details of the descaling process. Both of these factors may have contributed to the blockage.

Closure

We trust that the above details described appropriately the spill incident that occurred at the Meadowbank site on May 19th, 2024, and the cleanup activities. Please contact the undersigned should you have any questions.



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