



MBK Mill Leach pad – Contaminated Water

GN reference #: 2024-207 & 2024-232

Please find the following information as a follow up to the spill report, #2024-207 and #2024-232 submitted May 21st and 23rd, 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.

Description

During routine monitoring of an identified area on May 20th, evidence of seepage was observed on the west side of the assay lab road. Since the previously reported December 2023 event (#2023-524) in the same area, no evidence of seepage had been noted. Monitoring had been carried out throughout the winter and was subsequently increased for the freshet season. During freshet pumping and recovery operations on May 22nd, 2024, it was observed that the level of the leach pad containment area was decreasing faster than anticipated. Upon further inspection, it was discovered that certain areas of the containment were not watertight, allowing water to escape into a depression outside the containment. Further investigation determined that the source of the spill reported on May 21st (#2024-232) was the same as that of the spill reported on May 23rd (#2024-207). There were no off-site impacts or discharges as the seep was contained within existing water management infrastructure previously constructed.



Figure 1. Site aerial image with water management infrastructure identified

Cause

Secondary containment integrity

Remediation Actions

Upon discovering the water inflow, an investigation was launched to identify potential sources. Samples were collected to pinpoint the source of the seepage, and a red dye test was conducted at the mill leach pad containment. The dye test conclusively determined that the source of the spill was the leach pad secondary containment. The contaminated water was contained and managed within the existing water management infrastructure. The pumping system in place directed the contaminated water back to the mill system. Additional samples were collected from the downstream environment (Third Portage Lake) and sent to external labs for analysis.



Figure 2. Dyed water from the leaching pad reporting to the mill trench

Corrective Measures

Agnico will be bringing in an expert to inspect the mill leach pad and provide guidance on the scope of repairs. Until the expert's visit and the implementation of an action plan based on his findings, the secondary containment will be kept as dry as possible.

Closure

We trust that the above details described appropriately the spill incident that occurred at the Meadowbank site on May 20th and 22nd, 2024, and the cleanup activities and on-going monitoring efforts. Please contact the undersigned should you have any questions.



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