

Follow Up Report – January 31st 2018 Sewage Spill #18-027

Description of Spill:

On January 31st, a sewage spill occurred at a lift station by the Meliadine main camp STP. At approximately 15:00, a leak from the discharge pipe of a lift station was noticed by personnel and was immediately reported to the Site Services and Environment departments. It was determined that a leak from a rubber joint was the source of the spill. The lift station was shut down and the joint replaced with a mechanical joint. Due to the extreme cold weather, the sewage froze immediately around the lift station. Approximately 500L of sewage was spilt. The impacted area is minimal and did not reach any water bodies.

Spill Location:

The spill occurred at the Meliadine main camp sewage treatment plant. The fluid flowed from the lift station, pasted the sewage treatment plant, and ceased flowing approximately 20m from the source. The spill covered an area of approximately 10m².



Figure 1: View from above – Main Camp: Location of lift station piping (source of leak) and spill area.

Spill cause:

A rubber joint on the sewage treatment plant piping failed. The equipment failure was likely due to the material fatiguing in frigid temperatures.

Spill response:

The spill froze to the immediate area and was excavated and disposed of appropriately. The joint has been replaced with a mechanical joint made of more suitable material. A third party review of the system was completed and recommendations have been provided to Agnico Eagle for implementation in order to improve the performance of the STP.