

Follow Up Report: #19-171 April 16th, 2019 Orbit Drill 3 Spill

Description of Incident:

On April 16th 2019, a valve on Orbit Drill 3 broke, releasing approximately 5 litres of oil to Lake B7. The incident occurred at drill hole M19-2524W2. GPS coordinates of the location are 63°01′46″N, 92°14′12″W.

Spill Response & Cleanup:

The body valve was replaced, stopping the leak. Heat from the operation of the drill caused the ice to melt and oil flowed into the hole under the rig. During clean up on April 25th, it was noted that approximately 1 litre of additional oil had leaked from the rig to the absorbent pads below. Absorbent pads were used to collect oil from the water surface. Used absorbent pads were collected and disposed of in compliance with the hazmat management plan.



Figure 1: Absorbent pads used to remove oil under drill 3, on lake B7.

Spill Cause and Corrective Measures

Agnico Eagle's Environment department completed an investigation and determined the cause of the spill was a failed body valve. It was determined the spill occurred 16th April 2019, but was not reported until 24th April 2019. AEM Geology completed further follow up investigation and determined more thorough pre-op inspections must be completed in order to identify equipment failures.