

Follow Up Report: #19-494

December 31, 2019 Hydraulic Oil Spill



The following information refers to spill 19-494 reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. on December 31, and is being provided in accordance with:

- the Nunavut Water Board License 2AM-MEL1631 Water License, part H, item 8c

Description of Incident:

On December 31st at approximately 2am, Sandvik Haul Truck #17 left Portal #2 and had engaged the hydraulics to raise the box of the truck to offload ore at Ore Pad #2. When this occurred, the high-pressure hydraulic hose failed releasing the majority of the hydraulic oil contained in the oil tank, with the oil being released within a few minutes. The operator ceased operation immediately and used spill equipment to absorb as much of the material as possible. Assistance was called for and maintenance put secondary containment under the truck to catch any residual oil that was leaking out of it. The environment department was notified of the incident around 7am on January 31st and completed a preliminary investigation.

The initial investigation completed by the environment department indicated that the contaminated surface area was approximately 15m² with the spill located at 63°02'4.28"N, 92°13'12.31"W which is estimated to be approximately 780m from the closest natural water body. A drip tray was placed under the damaged hose, which collected approximately 20L of oil. Discussions with the maintenance department indicated that the size of the hydraulic tank was approximately 280L. It is estimated that approximately 200L of oil was spilled to the ground based on the hydraulic oil remaining in the tank and the oil contained in the spill tray.



Figure 1: Approximate location of 200L hydraulic oil spill.

Spill Response & Clean-up:

Spill equipment was used to absorb the oil and a drip tray was placed under the equipment to catch any remaining oil leaking from the truck. An excavator was used to remove the contaminated material. It is estimated that 2.5 m³ of material was placed in the landfarm. The clean-up was completed at 4pm on December 31st.



Figure 2: Spill and initial clean-up efforts at ore pad 2.



Figure 3: Spill location following clean up.

Corrective Measures

The hydraulic hose was inspected by the maintenance department and it was determined that there was no obvious impacts or irregularities to the hose. The hose did not show evidence of rubbing or any external factors that caused its failure. The pressure hose failed before the crimped fitting so the fitting was not a cause of the failure. The maintenance department inspects hydraulic hoses during scheduled preventative maintenance, and replaces them as required. Operators inspect equipment for leaks during pre-start inspections. The maintenance department will continue to inspect and monitor this specific component and assess alternative options in the event of recurrence.



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