

Follow Up Report: #20-052

February 19, 2020 Saline Water Spill



The following information refers to spill 20-052 reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. February 20th, 2020, and is being provided in accordance with:

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

Description of Incident:

On February 19th the Environment Department was informed that a crack in the floor of the Saline Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) had been identified which allowed saline water to seep through the foundation. It is estimated that a cumulative volume of approximately 300 m³ of saline water may have seeped through the building's secondary containment over a period of approximately 6 months. The spill occurred at the final tank in the salt removal process when a level sensor malfunctioned causing the tank to overflow.

No water bodies were impacted by this spill. The closest natural water body is over 875 m from the spill location. The coordinates of the spill are 63° 1'33.22"N, 92°12'36.20"W.



Figure 1: Location of saline water spill on eastern side of Saline Water Treatment Plant.



Figure 2: Cracked concrete foundation saline water flowed through (left) and repairs made 1st March 2020 (right).

Spill Response & Clean-up:

A building inspection was completed by a contracted engineer, who identified a cavity beneath the concrete flooring. Holes were drilled through the flooring to examine the extent of the cavity to remove any free standing water, if present. No free standing water was observed during the time of the inspection.

Corrective Measures:

Repairs were completed 1st March 2020, to prevent any future saline water spillage entering the active layer. Concrete grout was pumped into the cavity and will be finished with a waterproof epoxy coating to prevent further damage to the foundation. Adjustments were made to level sensors and communication to workers included the importance of respecting the levels in the process tanks. Preventative maintenance will be performed to ensure sensors are clean and free of salt build-up.

Weekly inspections by the plant operators will be completed which will include photo documentation of areas susceptible to future cracks. Any future cracks will be repaired immediately upon detection.



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