Follow Up Report: #20-087
March 28th 2020, Emulsion Spill

The following information refers to spill 20-087 reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. March 28th 2020, and is being provided in accordance with:

- the Nunavut Water Board License 2AM-MEL1631 Water License, part H, item 8c
- the Government of Nunavut's, Environmental Protection Act subsection 5.1(a)

Description of Incident:

On March 28th at approximately 3:00 pm, an estimated 400 L of emulsion was spilled on surface at the emulsion plant. A tele-handler operator punctured an empty emulsion bin while loading it onto the flat-bed truck for transport to surface. The damage was not reported by the operator and was not seen by emulsion plant personnel prior to refilling. As the emulsion plant operator began refilling the bin he noticed the leak and shut down the system immediately. Approximately 400 L of emulsion spilled to the industrial pad.

No water bodies were impacted by this spill. The closest natural water body is over 550 m from the spill location. The coordinates of the spill are 63° 2'41.91"N, 92°15'26.42"W (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Location of 400 L emulsion spill and proximity to water bodies.

Spill Response & Cleanup:

Emulsion plant personnel removed the damaged bin from the flat-rack using a forklift, and drained the emulsion from the damaged bin into another bin (Figure 2). The flat-rack was moved using a hyster, to provide access to the spill (Figure 3). Spilled emulsion was pumped into an emulsion bin for reprocessing and reuse (Figure 4). A bobcat was used to scrape remaining emulsion residue from the ground. This material was brought back into the emulsion plant and neutralized.

Figure 2: Forklift removing emulsion bin from flat-rack.

Figure 3: Hyster removing flat-rack from spill area.

Figure 4: Spilled emulsion being pumped to emulsion bin.

Figure 5: Spill area following clean up.

Corrective Measures

The Environment Department held a follow-up meeting with the Mine Department and Dyno Nobel (Emulsion Contractor) to discuss the cause and corrective measures. Operators loading and unloading emulsion bins will now require a spotter to ensure forks are correctly positioned under emulsion bins. Flat-racks used to transport emulsion bins between the emulsion plant are now equipped with dividers, to ensure all sides of the bin can be thoroughly inspected prior to filling (Figure 6). Bins must be placed on the flat-rack with valves facing out to provide quick access in the event of a hose connection failure.

Figure 6: Steal dividers installed to improve visibility during pre-loading inspection.

AGNICO EAGLE

Dan Gorton | Environmental Coordinator
dan.gorton@agnicoeagle.com | Direct 819.759.3555 x4603996 |
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited - Meliadine Mine, Suite 879 - Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, Canada X0C 0G0
agnicoeagle.com