

Follow Up Report: #20-310

August 9th 2020, 1 m³ Saline Water Spill



The following information refers to a spill reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. August 9th 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 August 9th, at approximately 3:00 pm, an estimated 1 m³ of treated saline water was spilled as water was being conveyed via a waterline from Saline Pond 3 (SP3) to the truck loading station. An accidental release occurred from a recently commissioned waterline, resulting in water spilling to the ground and flowing towards Containment Pond 5 (CP5). No water migrated off-site. The closest water body is approximately 925 m away. The coordinates of the spill are 63° 1'36.00"N, 92°12'10.00"W (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Location of spill 1 m³ treated saline water spill in CP5 catchment, adjacent to loading station.

Spill Response & Cleanup:

No clean-up was required as the surface water flowed back into CP5, which is part of the sites' managed water system. The source of the treated saline water was SP3, which contains post-treatment water from the saline effluent treatment plant (SETP). Water quality from SP3 is monitored at licensed compliance monitoring location, Mel-26, prior to discharge to sea. A sample was collected from Mel-26 at the time of the spill and showed no results of concern.



Figure 2: Piping removed from SP3 to loading station.



Figure 3: Piping replaced from SP3 to loading station.

Corrective Measures





The Energy and Infrastructure (E&I) department replaced the piping August 10th and inspected the line before resuming operations. When the line was brought back into service, E&I personnel remained at the point of the spill to ensure that the replaced piping was operating correctly. No issues were observed.



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