

Follow Up Report: #20-379

October 3rd 2020, Ammonium Nitrate Spill



The following information refers to spill 20-379 reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. October 3rd 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:

A seacan containing bags of ammonium nitrate was punctured by heavy equipment causing approximately 350 kg of product to be released to the ground. The spill was initially reported as 400 kg. However, after weighing the remaining product inside the seacan, a more accurate estimate of 350 kg was calculated. The damage was discovered October 2nd and it is thought to have occurred during snow removal earlier this year.

No water bodies were impacted by this spill. The nearest natural waterbody (B7) is 500 m away. The coordinates of the spill are 63° 2'34.15"N, 92°15'26.20"W (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Location of 350 kg Ammonium Nitrate spill and proximity to water bodies.

Spill Response & Cleanup:

Emulsion plant personnel determined that there was no risk of ignition prior to responding to the spill. The product spilled was Superprill™ Prilled Ammonium Nitrate (UN1942), which is not sensitive to mechanical impact or static discharge. Any spilled material would have likely been collected during snow removal and transported to a snow storage area. Material spilled inside the seacan was collected for use. Potentially contaminated gravel was scraped up using a bobcat and disposed of as hazmat. The damaged seacan was emptied and will no longer be used.



Figure 2: Damaged seacan containing Ammonium Nitrate.



Figure 3: Damaged Ammonium Nitrate bag and spilled product removed from seacan.

Corrective Measures

The Environment Department held a follow-up meeting with the Energy and Infrastructure Department and Dyno Nobel (Emulsion Contractor) to discuss the cause and corrective measures. Equipment operators responsible for clearing snow will be reminded of the importance of following the snow management plan and standard operating procedures prior to resuming snow removal.



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