

# Follow Up Report: #21-004

## January 5, 2021 – 170 L Hydraulic Oil Spill



The following information refers to an incident reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. January 5, 2021, 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

At approximately 1:30 am on January 5, 2021, a breakage in a section of a hydraulic line on the exterior of the apron feeder building led to the release of approximately 170 L of hydraulic oil. The oil ran down the eastern wall of the building onto the snow below and was confined to a small area allowing for complete recovery of the spill.

The coordinates of this spill are 63° 2'3.57"N, 92°13'24.27"W. No water bodies were impacted by this spill.



**Figure 1:** Location of the spill on East side of the apron feeder building.



**Figure 2:** A hydraulic line breakage occurred on the exterior of the building (circled area).

### **Spill Response & Cleanup**

Spill pads were immediately placed on the affected area to contain and catch the oil. The Process Plant Supervisor and Environment Department. organized a clean-up of the area. The area was cleaned up using a loader, bobcat and shovel. All contaminated snow was disposed of in the Landfarm.



**Figure 3:** Contaminated snow beneath the broken hydraulic line.



**Figure 4:** With the storage trailer moved away, the contaminated snow was able to be removed.

### Cause of Incident and Corrective Measures





The specific cause in this incident is attributed to wear and tear on the hydraulic lines, compounded by the cold temperatures the lines are exposed to. The strong vibrations caused by mechanical equipment inside the building, put additional stress on these lines and fittings. Although these lines are currently insulated and heat-traced to prevent temperature drops in the hydraulic system, a plan is in place to install a heated seacan to contain the hydraulic tanks and keep the overall system warmer. Ridged piping will also be installed over the current lines which will help with insulation and wear and tear.



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