

# Follow Up Report: #21-301

## July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Cyclone Separator Process Water Spill

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The following information relates to spill 21-301 reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. July 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 6:00 am, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, a blockage in the cyclone system within the process plant occurred preventing cyclone slurry (solid and water mix) from passing through the cyclone unit. The system backed up causing cyclone slurry to overflow to the floor of the process plant. Approximately 20m<sup>3</sup> of cyclone slurry flowed outside of the building, onto the industrial pad. The spill volume was estimate based on the area and depth of the spilled material.

No natural water bodies were impacted with the closest being approximately 640m north. The spill occurred at 63° 2'11"N, 92°13'30"W, within the Meliadine water management area.



**Figure 1:** Location of process water spill within Meliadine's water management area.



**Figure 2:** Cyclone slurry flow outside process plant.

## Spill Response & Cleanup

The plant was shut down to stop the release. The Cyclone slurry, which spilled to the process plant floor, as well as contaminated material outside of the process building was cleaned up immediately. All material collected was reprocessed through the mill. The affected area was cleared with heavy equipment.

## Cause of Incident and Corrective Measures

A blockage within the cyclone went unnoticed by the control room operator, causing the system to become overwhelmed before the operator could stop the inflow. Cyclone slurry overflowed into the sump, which did not have capacity to contain the volume of overflow. The sump then overflowed, and slurry flowed out of the building.

To prevent recurrence, modifications to the trash screen sump containment will be made to allow any overflow material to be contained within the Grinding area containment and sump. The grinding area containment has significant capacity to contain this type of release in the future.



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Sent from Meliadine

