

Follow Up Report: #21-429

October 4th, 2021, Grease spill



The following information refers to a spill reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. October 5th, 2021, and is being provided in accordance with:

- the Nunavut Water Board License 2BB-MEL1424 Water License, part H, item 4c
- the Government of Nunavut's, Environmental Protection Act subsection 5.1(a)

Description of Incident:

On October 4th the Environment Department was notified of a spill which occurred near the north side of the process plant. An employee walking to the process plant observed a barrel that had tipped over with industrial grease from the process plant and maintenance shop flowing out of the barrel, roughly 150L of grease was spilled.

No water body was impacted by this spill. The closest water body (H15) is approximately 235m away. The coordinates of the spill are 63°02'16"N, 92°13'35"W (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Location of spill.

Spill Response & Cleanup:

The employee that discovered the drum immediately placed the drum upright, contacted his supervisor and deployed spill rags (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Initial spill response; spill rags.

After the surface material was collected with spill rags these were placed in a quatrex bag and brought to the hazardous waste laydown for proper storage (figure 3)



Figure 3: hazardous waste quatrex

The contaminated area affected from the industrial grease spill was scraped up and brought to Landfarm A for remediation (figure 4)



Figure 4: Spill area cleaned by heavy equipment

Corrective Measures

2 cubic meters of contaminated gravel was removed from the surface of this pad. An investigation was completed with all departments involved and the Environment Department has provided them with a list of corrective and preventative measures. These include ensuring that personnel use a mandatory spotter when moving hazardous materials with forked equipment, having drums with hazardous waste secured on pallets prior to movement, repacking any improperly stored sea cans, and ensuring that staff are inspecting work areas for potential hazardous obstructions.



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