

Follow Up Report: #21-471

November 16th, 2021 – Tailing's Cement Paste Spill

The following information relates to spill 21-471 reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. November 16th, 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 5:00, November 16th, 2021, Paste Plant Operator noticed a drop of the differential pressure on the Paste line. He notified his supervisor. The supervisor contacted the underground team to validate if there is any leak that could explain the drop on the pressure.

Following the feedback from underground that everything was ok, the supervisor sent operators for the line inspection outside of the Paste building. At that moment they noticed an 25m³ of tailings cement paste that was released from the line near TIRI1 on the elbow before the line goes underground.

No natural water bodies were impacted with the closest being approximately 640 m northwest (B8). The spill occurred at 63° 1'34"N, 92°12'56"W, beside TIRI01 hauling road.



Figure 1: Location of cement paste spill by TIRI01 hauling road



Figure 2: Cement paste leak

Spill Response & Cleanup

The paste plant line was immediately shut down and the environmental department was called to assess the spill. An excavator was brought to the area to move cement paste into a rock truck. All material collected was brought to the tailing's storage facility for proper disposal.

Cause of Incident and Corrective Measures

During the subsequent investigation of the spill, it was found that there were missing supports to support the line and keep it level, the flange gasket may also have not been adequate for the current application

To prevent recurrence, adequate support is being installed, lines are being inspected to ensure adequate gaskets are properly rated and a preventative maintenance will be scheduled weekly and bi-yearly (Fall and Spring). Paste lines will also be inspected daily by the Mill operations team. Once supports and properly rated gaskets are installed the paste line will be inspected and re-commissioned.







Figure 3: Disconnected line and remediated area



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