

Follow Up Report: #21-492

December 7, 2021 – Pump shack fire- 800L fire suppressant water



The following information refers to an incident reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. December 8, 2021, and is being provided in accordance with:

- the Nunavut Water Board License 2BB-MEL1424 Water License, part H, item 4c
- Subsection 38(7) of the Fisheries Act

Description of Incident

At approximately 15:00 on December 7th, drillers working at a surface diamond drill noticed flames inside the drill's freshwater pump shack, located 45 meters from Meliadine Lake. The driller contacted his supervisor and upon arrival to the pump shack, attempted to extinguish the fire using fire extinguishers. The Emergency Response Team (ERT) arrived at the scene and used the pumper truck to suppress the fire with water. Due to the nature of the shack, the interior contains oil or grease covered surfaces. The act of suppressing the fire with water led to the release of charred material onto the ground and some of which was contained within the shack (Figure 2).

The fire truck holds approximately 3,000 L of water and it is estimated 800L of the tank was used to suppress the fire. This would be the maximum amount of water that could have been released.

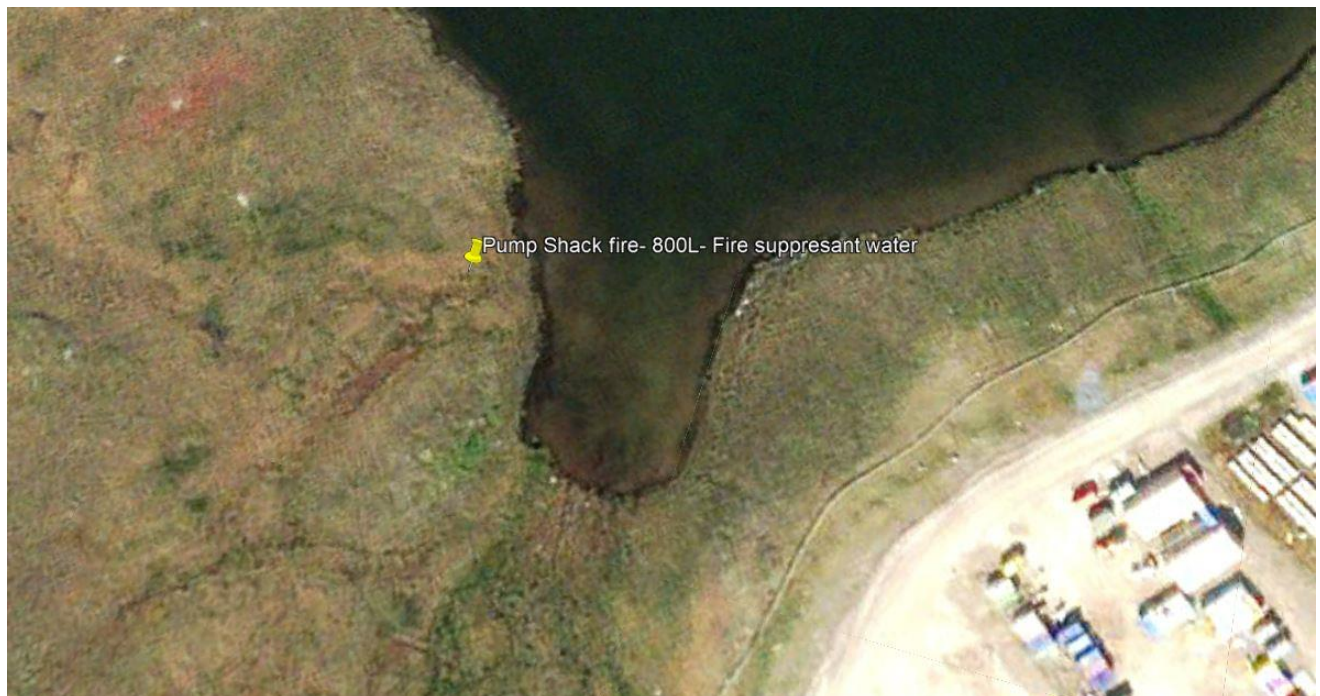


Figure 1: Location of the pump shack fire in proximity to Meliadine Lake.



Figure 2: Photos of the pump shack after the fire was suppressed and the shack was towed back to the shop.

Spill Response & Cleanup

On December 9th the Orbit Garant drilling team was able to plow all the contaminated snow and ice into a large pile and brought this material to the Snow Cell (Figure 3) on our mine site where it will be stored until the summer and then treated through the oil-water separator.

A post clean-up composite sample was collected and analyzed for residual hydrocarbons. Results indicated that the clean-up was successful and it is anticipated that there will be no environmental.



Figure 3: Contaminated material was placed at the contaminated snow cell

Cause of Incident and Corrective Measures

The root cause of this incident relates back to the cause of the fire, and the need to suppress it with water. The incident has been investigated separately by the Health and Safety team and it was determined that a fan of the frost fighter stopped and caused it to overheat melting the plastic fuel tank underneath enhancing the fires growth.

Maintenance schedule for the frost fighter inside the pumps shack is related to the number hours in use, scheduled maintenance inspection will be increased to decrease the chance of equipment failure.

Moreover, the ERT will evaluate possible other fire suppression methods than water to reduce the environmental impacts.



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