

Follow Up Report: #2022140

April 22nd, 2022 – Thickener Process Water Spill

The following information relates to spill 2022140 reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited on April 23rd, 2022, and is being provided in accordance with:

- the Nunavut Water Board License 2AM-MEL1631 Water Licence, part H, item 8c.

Description of Incident

On April 22nd, 2022, a shutdown of the clarifier in the process plant caused process liquids to backup, resulting in an overflow of thickener. 10 cubic meters of thickener process water flowed onto the ground outside of the process plant.

The coordinates of this spill are 63 2'11.5"N, 92 13'35.3"W. No water bodies were impacted by this spill; the closest water body (G2) is approximately 600 m northwest.



Figure 1: Location of the April 22nd, 2022, thickener process water spill.

Spill Response & Cleanup

To immediately stop the spill; the process was stopped and the manual valve to the Clarifier Feed Tank was opened to stop flow into the thickener.

The topography of the area and the freezing conditions caused the thickener process water to pool and freeze on the west side of process road. A loader and haul truck were used to cleanup the material. All material collected was placed in the process plant where it will melt and be returned to the process plant system.



Figure 2: Thickener process water spill cleanup



Figure 3: Thickener process water spill material disposal location

Cause of Incident and Corrective Measures

The investigation into the cause of the release identified as human error. The manual valve that allows water to be discharged into our Clarifier Feed Tank was not put in the open position. This sent a surge of water to the thickener causing the spill.

The following corrective measures have been implemented:

- The manual discharge valve feeding the Clarifier Feed Tank was replaced with an auto valve with interlocks. The interlocks will ensure the valve moves to the open position when 1 or more clarifier feed valves are closed. This will prevent a surge of water from reaching the thickener.
- The thickener flow procedure has been reviewed with the Control Room Operator and Process Operators.

In addition to the above-mentioned completed corrective measures, the construction of a containment berm is scheduled for summer 2022.



Brett Fairbairn | Environment Coordinator

brett.fairbairn@agnicoeagle.com | Direct 819.759.3555 x4603996 |

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited - Meliadine Mine, Suite 879 - Rankin Inlet,
Nunavut, Canada X0C 0G0

agnicoeagle.com     

Sent from Meliadine