

Follow Up Report: #2022357

July 7th, 2022 – 50 L Sewage Spill



The following information refers to incident #2022357 reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (Agnico Eagle) on July 8th, 2022, and is being provided in accordance with:

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

Description of Incident

At approximately 8:00 pm on July 7th, 2022, an estimated 50 liters of untreated sewage was spilled to the gravel pad from the Wing 2 lift station when two lift station pumps failed to engage.

The coordinates of this spill are 63° 2' 24.54"N, 92° 13' 42.60"W. No water bodies were impacted by this spill. The closest water body (G2) is approximately 230 meters north.

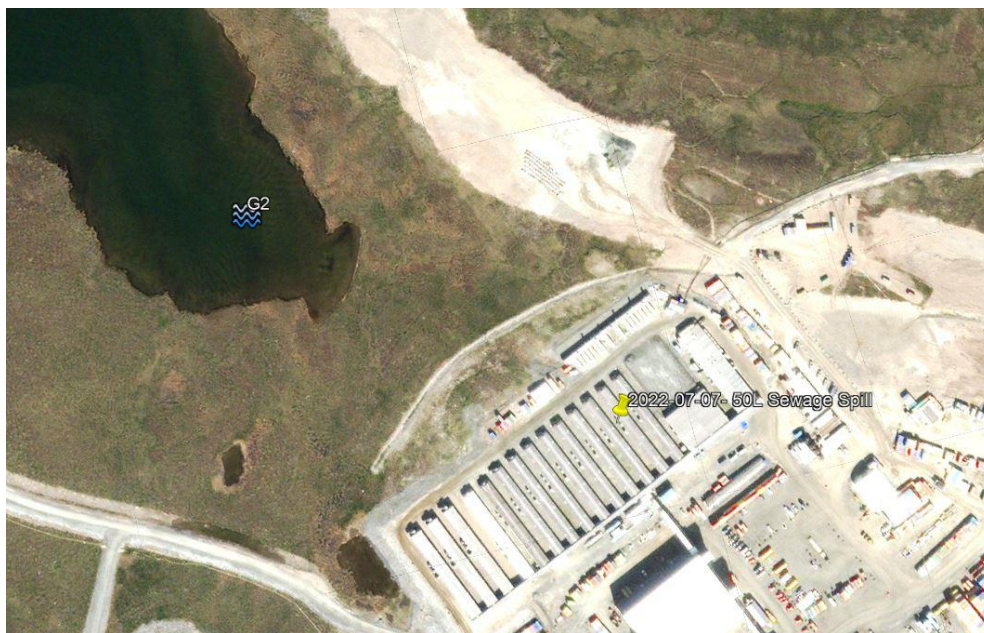


Figure 1: Location of sewage spill.

Spill Response & Cleanup

Upon discovery of the spill, a vacuum truck was dispatched to empty the lift station and recover the liquid sewage outside the lift station. The recovered liquid was pumped into the Mine Services Building (MSB) lift station for processing at the sewage treatment plant. The sewage contaminated gravel was scrapped up by a loader and placed in Waste Rock Storage Facility 1 for final disposal.



Figure 2: Location of sewage spill post-cleanup.

Cause of Incident and Corrective Measures

An electrician and plumber were sent to inspect the lift station to determine the cause of the overflow. A piece of material presumed to have been flushed down a toilet had jammed a pump. A backup pump in this lift station did not engage as it was also jammed with waste material. Material was cleaned from both pump inlets, the pumps were tested and were operating as designed and put back into service. Installation of a new 20 amp breaker was completed on July 8th as a preventative maintenance measure.

Each lift station is equipped with two Liberty ProVore 1HP 120 volt sewage grinder pumps. Each grinder pump has a cutting element located at the inlet that is subject to wear/tear, which could result in reduced cutting performance and clogging. An audit of each grinder pump is underway to assess the conditions of the cutting elements and replace them as required. Each lift station is also equipped with a local audio/visual alarm; however, AGNICO EAGLE is actively investigating options for these alarms to be communicated remotely.

GCM Consultants has been contracted to complete an audit on the entire sewage system used at the Meliadine site from August 3rd-9th. An audit report with recommendations will be provided to AGNICO EAGLE and potential system enhancements will be communicated to CIRNAC.