

December 6th, 2023

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Re: Follow-up Report Spill #2023-469 – Release of 50 L of Sewage at the Meliadine Gold Mine

On November 11th, 2023, the Nunavut Spill Line was notified by Agnico Eagle personnel via email (spills@gov.nt.ca) of a spill of approximately 50 L of sewage at the Meliadine Gold Mine site (spill location coordinates: 63°1'36.68"N, 92°12'44.33"W). This follow-up report provides supplemental information based on the results of the incident assessment and is being provided in accordance with:

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

Description of Incident

On November 11th, 2023, at approximately 06:00, an estimated 50 L of sewage was spilled onto the ground by Orbit Garant holding tank. The Energy and Infrastructure (E&I) department discovered a leak resulting from a malfunctioning valve. The closest water body (Lake H5A) is approximately 650 m northeast, as seen in Figure 1.

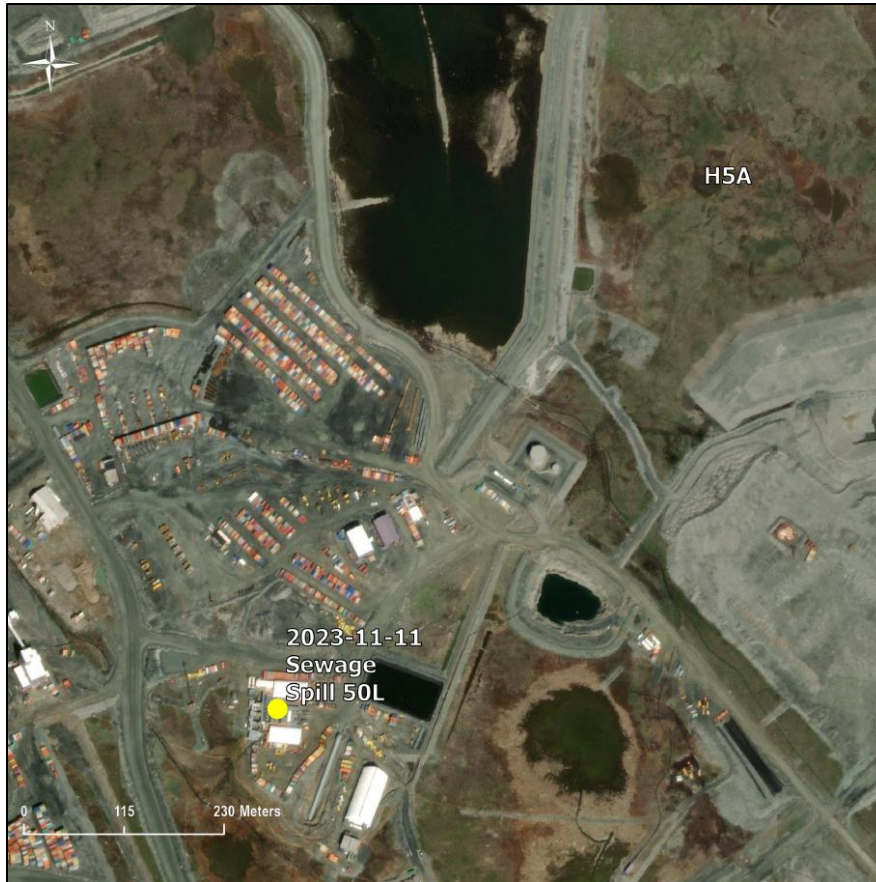


Figure 1: Location of the sewage spill and proximity to water bodies.

Response and Remediation

The leak was discovered by E&I personnel during a routine daily facility inspection. In response, a plumber was called to replace the malfunctioning valve and install a camlock cap as an additional precaution. Subsequently, E&I personnel hand-excavated the area to recover the contaminated material and transported the material to Landfarm A as per the Spill Contingency Plan.

Root Cause and Corrective Measures

An incident assessment was conducted soon after the incident occurred to determine the root cause and contributing factors. The assessment concluded with the following:


- A broken valve caused the spill to occur.

The following corrective and preventative actions have been implemented to address the root cause and to reduce the likelihood of reoccurrence:

- Secondary containment inside the Orbit holding tank to be replaced by the end of 2023 to increase holding capacity.
- Installation of camlock caps to all lift station and holding tank connections by the end of 2023 to prevent sewage from exiting the line in the event of a valve malfunction.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.



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Appendix – Photos



Photos 1: Sewage spill location.



Photos 2: Spill location post remediation.