

January 9th, 2024

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Sent via email: Kyle.Amsel@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca

Re: Follow-up Report Spill #2023-518 – Release of 10 L of Sewage at the Meliadine Gold Mine

On December 11th, 2023, the Nunavut Spill Line was notified by Agnico Eagle personnel via email (spills@gov.nt.ca) of a spill of approximately 10 L of sewage at the Meliadine Gold Mine site (spill location coordinates: 63° 1'21"N, 92°13'56"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 December 11th, 2023, at approximately 12:30, an estimated 10 L of sewage was spilled onto the industrial pad by the west exhaust raise. Residual sewage in vacuum truck transfer hose was released when disconnecting the hose from a wash car holding tank, resulting in the sewage spill. No water bodies were impacted by this spill. The closest water body (Lake B5) is approximately 260 m southwest, as seen in Figure 1.



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

Response and Remediation

The operator of the vacuum truck contacted their supervisor and the Environment department soon after the spill event occurred. The Environment department promptly responded to the spill and upon arrival, the ground surface was hand excavated, and the recovered material was brought 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:






- The vacuum truck operator failed to fully empty the transfer hose prior to disconnecting the hose from the holding tank.

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

- The procedure was reviewed with sewage truck operator.
- Secondary containment (drip tray) will be used when disconnecting hose from holding tank.
- Assess the equipment for optimization opportunities to reduce the chances for human error.

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



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Appendix – Photos



Photo 1: Sewage spill location.



Photo 2: Spill location post remediation.