

January 9th, 2024

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

Re: Follow-up Report Spill #2023-520 – Release of 5 L of Sewage at the Meliadine Gold Mine

On December 13th, 2023, the Nunavut Spill Line was notified by Agnico Eagle personnel via email (spills@gov.nt.ca) of a spill of approximately 5 L of sewage at the Meliadine Gold Mine site (spill location coordinates: 63° 2' 16"N, 92° 13' 35"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 13th, 2023, at approximately 12:15, an estimated 5 L of sewage was spilled onto the industrial pad at the mill lift station. The transfer pump failed to empty the lift station holding tank, resulting in sewage overflowing and causing the spill. No water bodies were impacted by this spill. The closest water body (Lake G2) is approximately 500 m northwest, as seen in Figure 1.



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

Response and Remediation

An electrician working in the area observed the lift station alarm. The employee is familiar with the lift station infrastructure and in response, they manually initiated the backup pump to draw down the sewage level and prevent further spillage. The employee observed the presence of sewage effluent outside the lift station enclosure and immediately contacted the environment department. 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:






- A blockage in pump 1 caused the pump to fail. Although the pump intake was blocked, the pump was still running which did not signal pump 2 to engage.

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

- The electrical department installed a “high-high” level sensor at the mill lift station. If this sensor is triggered both pumps will engage to draw down the sewage level within the holding tank.
- The installation of a stronger audible/visual alarm is planned to be installed on the exterior of the lift station in the coming weeks.

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.