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**Re: Follow-up Report Spill #2023-539 – Release of 100 L of Sewage at the Meliadine Gold Mine**

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Nunavut Spill Line was notified by Agnico Eagle personnel via email (spills@gov.nt.ca) of a spill of approximately 100 L of sewage at the Meliadine Gold Mine site (spill location coordinates: 63° 2' 22.5"N, 92° 13' 52.5"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 January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at approximately 06:30, an estimated 100 L of sewage was spilled onto the industrial pad at the Wing 12 lift station. A paper towel was flushed down a toilet in Wing 12, causing the primary sewage transfer pump to fail and the holding tank to overflow, resulting in the spill. Additionally, the secondary sewage transfer pump failed to initiate due to an electrical issue.

No water bodies were impacted by the spill. The closest water body (Lake G2) is approximately 200 m north, as seen in Figure 1.



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

## Response and Remediation

An Energy and Infrastructure maintenance employee arrived at the scene and manually initiated the secondary transfer pump to stop the spill. Subsequently, the paper towel discovered to have disabled the primary transfer pump was removed, and the pump was reinstated.

A vacuum truck was dispatched to pump out the sewage that accumulated in the lift station secondary containment. The spilled material was excavated with a backhoe, and the recovered material was transferred to Landfarm A as per the Spill Contingency Plan.



An electrician assessed the wing 12 lift station secondary sewage transfer pump and determined that the control box for the pumps and floats was faulty and needed to be replaced.

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






- Paper towel was flushed down a toilet in Wing 12, resulting in the sewage transfer pump failure.
- The secondary sewage transfer pump failed to initiate due to an electrical issue with the control box for the pumps and floats.

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

- Additional signs indicating that certain items cannot be flushed down the toilets were posted in the wings.
- The control box for the Wing 12 secondary sewage transfer pump was replaced.

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



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Sent from Meliadine

## **Appendix – Photos**



**Photo 1:** Sewage spill location.



**Photo 2:** Spill location post remediation.