

February 11th, 2024

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Re: Follow-up Report Spill #2024-016 – Release of 5 L of Sewage at the Meliadine Gold Mine

On January 15th, 2024, 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' 23.67"N, 92° 13' 46.57"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 14th, 2024, at approximately 5:00am, an estimated 5 L of sewage was spilled onto the industrial pad at the wing 6 lift station. The lift station float level switches were coated in brown paper towel preventing them from engaging the sewage transfer pump. This caused the lift station to overflow, resulting in the spill.

No water bodies were impacted by the spill. The closest water body (Lake G2) is approximately 215 m northwest, as seen in Figure 1.



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

Response and Remediation

When the spill was discovered by an Energy and Infrastructure (E&I) Maintenance employee during their routine inspection, they manually restarted the lift station sewage transfer pump, stopping the spill. The float level switches were cleaned to prevent another spill from occurring. The sewage impacted area 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 transfer pump float level switches were coated in brown paper towel preventing them from engaging the sewage transfer pump.

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

- Infographic posters were installed in the accommodation wing bathrooms, advising employees to not flush prohibited materials such as brown paper towels.
- A site wide announcement was also distributed, outlining what items are flushable and what items are not. This announcement was reviewed in the daily morning meetings by heads of each department and their direct reports.

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.