December 6th, 2024

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Re: Follow-up Report Spill #2024-417 – Release of 60 L of Sewage at the Meliadine Gold Project

On November 10th, 2024, the Nunavut Spill Line was notified by Agnico Eagle personnel via email (spills@gov.nt.ca) of a spill of approximately 60 L of sewage at the Meliadine Gold Project site (spill location coordinates: 63° 2'24.10"N, 92°13'44.72"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 2AM-MEL1631 Water Licence (the Licence), Part H, Item 8c.

Description of Incident

On November 9th, 2024, at approximately 20:00, E&I personnel responded to a high-level alarm at the Wing 4 lift station. Upon arrival, an estimated 60 L of sewage was observed to have spilled onto the industrial pad outside of the lift station.

The spill occurred within the site's water management infrastructure, and as such, no waterbodies were impacted by the spill. The closest water body (Lake G2) is approximately 220 meters northwest, as seen in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Location of the spill and proximity to waterbodies.

Response and Remediation

The Energy and Infrastructure (E&I) Maintenance supervisor received an alert from the high-level alarm at the Wing 4 lift station and dispatched a plumber to investigate. Upon arrival, the plumber discovered the spill and manually initiated the lift station pumps to stop the spill. A vacuum truck was sent to empty the material inside the secondary containment. The contaminated material on the industrial pad was then excavated and transported to the Landfarm A, in accordance with the Spill Contingency Plan.

Root Cause and Corrective Measures

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

- The Wing 4 lift station floats became entangled with loose electrical wiring inside the lift station resulting in the pumps not activating automatically. The plastic zip tie securing the wires broke due to wear and tear, leading to the entanglement and failure of the floats. Only a single, light-duty zip tie had been used to secure the wiring.
- The scheduled quarterly float preventative maintenance did not include inspection of some internal system components, such as the presence of loose wiring.

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

- The lift station wires were secured using heavy-duty zip ties. Multiple zip ties were installed as redundancy. The other lift stations' wiring will be inspected, and heavy-duty zip ties will be installed where necessary.
- The inspection of additional internal parts of the lift station was added to the procedure for the quarterly float preventative maintenance.

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

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Appendix A – Photos

Photo 1: Sewage spill location.

Photo 2: Spill location post remediation.