

Follow Up Report: #18-396

September 20, 2018 Treated Sewage Sludge

Description of Incident:

On September 20, 2018 during a site inspection with INAC and ECCC personnel, a spill was observed at a storage tank (100,000 L tanks) used for treated sewage sludge storage. The spill occurred at one tank during filling, however, overspray was observed on two adjacent storage tanks. The storage tanks are located at the old fuel farm used under Licence 2BB-MEL1424 and is 219 m and 394 m up-gradient (0.91% 2.3%, receptively) from Lake J5 and Lake H20, respectively. Based on the distance, gradients and mine infrastructure located between the spill and the Lakes, migration of the spill material is not anticipated to meet any water bodies.

Spill Response & Cleanup:

On the day of the spill observation, the ground froze and it snowed during the evening. Personnel were unable to excavate the material with a hand-shovel. Since the tanks are filled, the tanks cannot be mobilized to improve access for heavy equipment, until emptied. It is Agnico Eagle's intent is to empty the tanks and to discharge the material to the dry-stack tailings storage facility when operational (in compliance with the sludge disposal planning). The timeframe to have the tanks emptied is not defined at the moment.

Spill Cause and Corrective Measures

The spill was caused by human error and miscommunication between the pump operator and the person filling the tank with the treated sewage sludge. Spill reporting procedures have been reviewed with the personnel involved, since the procedure to report was not followed. Additionally, a procedure has been modified for the discharge of effluent to a storage tank. This procedure has been delivered to personnel and will continue to be communicated. The spill located under the storage tank will be excavated (by hand shovel or with heavy equipment) and disposed of as HAZMAT once the ground is thawed and prior to freshet to mitigate transport migration with surface flow.