

Follow Up Report: #21-109 & 21-110

March 29, 2021,

Oil on Lake A8 – Drill Rigs



The following information refers to two similar spills reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. on March 30, 2021, and is being provided in accordance with:

- the Nunavut Water Board License 2BB-MEL1424 Water License, part H, item 4c
- the Fisheries Act subsection 38(5)

Description of Incident:

On March 29, at approximately 16:00 Environment Technicians were called to conduct an inspection of the surface drill rigs, operated by contractor Orbit Garant. Two drill rigs were operating on Lake A8 (Figure 1). During the inspection both rigs were found to have areas with small amounts of hydraulic oil dripping from inside the rigs onto the lake ice. Drill #1 was estimated to be approximately 20L (Figure 2), and Drill #7 was estimated to be approximately 3L (Figure 3).

Although the spills occurred on the lake ice, there are no significant or long term impacts to the water body itself. The coordinates of the spills are Drill 1: 63° 0' 43" N, 92° 12' 23" W and Drill 7: 63° 0' 43" N, 92° 12' 06" W (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Locations of Drill #1 and Drill #7 on Lake A8 on March 29.



Figure 2: Contaminated snow outside of Drill #1.



Figure 3: Hydraulic oil dripping from hoses outside of Drill #7.

Spill Response & Cleanup:

During the inspection, Environment technicians notified the drillers of the issues. Absorbent pads were placed beneath the drips immediately. The Orbit Garant supervisor was notified and the drills were shut down in order to address the issues. The leaking hose fittings were repaired on each drill, and the contaminated snow/ice was chipped up and disposed of in hazmat bags.



Figure 4: Drill #1 on March 30 after clean up and installation of drip pans and absorbents.

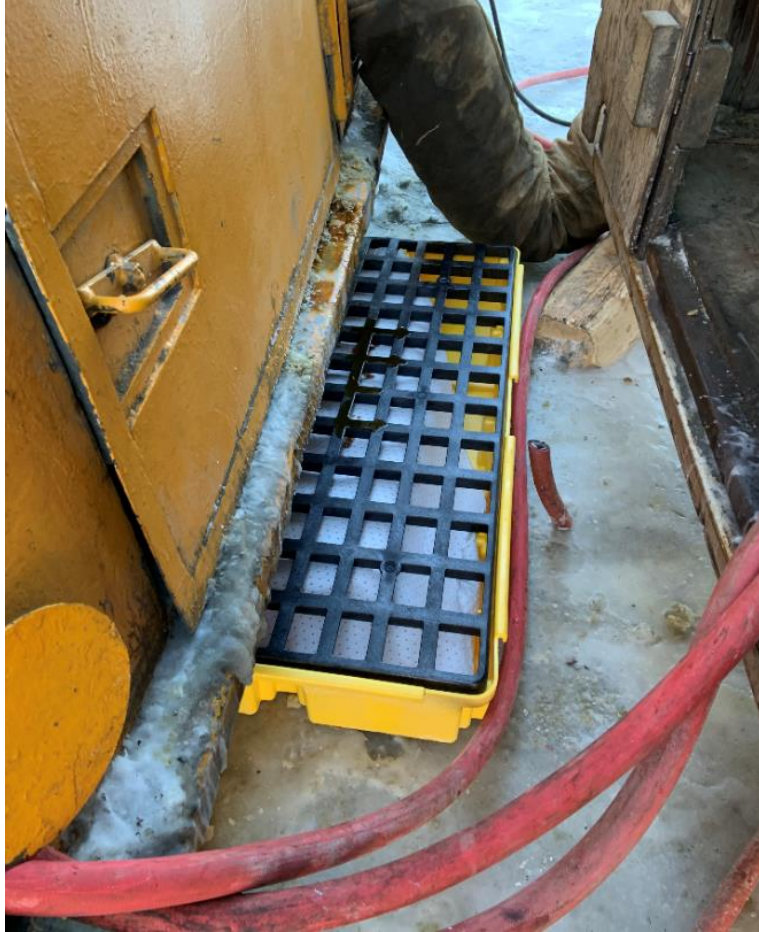


Figure 2: Drill #7 on March 30 after clean up and installation of drip pans and absorbents.

Corrective Measures

The leaking fittings on the exterior hoses were repaired, and drip pans were installed beneath the ledges where oil was leaking from inside the rigs. The Orbit Garant supervisors held meetings with both shifts to discuss the importance of routine, regular inspections of their rigs. Due to the high worker turnover rates of Orbit Garant drillers, supervisors will ensure to reiterate these messages to new workers, and the Environment department will continue conducting regular inspections.



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