

Follow Up Report: #2022105

March 29th, 2022,

20 L Drilling Recirculation Water on Waterbody A8



The following information relates to spill #2022105 reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited on March 30th, 2022, and is being provided in accordance with:

- the Nunavut Water Board License 2BB-MEL1424 Water Licence, part H, item 4c
- the Fisheries Act subsection 38(7)

Description of Incident:

On March 29th, 2022 during an environmental inspection of the Orbit Garant drill rigs located on waterbody A8, a worker identified that 20 L of drilling recirculation water had overflowed from the decantation tank to the surface of the ice.

The coordinates of the spill are: 63° 0' 43.04" N, 92°12' 25.15"W, which is on waterbody A8.



Figure 1: Drilling recirculation water spill location

Spill Response & Cleanup:

At the time of inspection, the decantation tank was no longer overflowing, and drilling recirculation water was no longer spilling onto the ice. The cleanup of the spill was completed as part of the final site cleanup as all drilling operations were complete at the site. During the drill site cleanup all impacted snow and ice was removed and sent to the drill cuttings disposal area with the remaining drill cuttings.



Figure 2: Spill Location- Post cleanup

Cause of Incident and Corrective Measures

The release was a result of an equipment failure as the fresh water supply valve failed and could not be put in the closed position to stop filling the decantation tank. The decantation tank overflowed spilling recirculation water onto the surface ice. Orbit Garant stopped the flow of fresh water into the decantation tank and replaced the failed valve.

As an effort to mitigate the frequency of spills on lake ice, Orbit has committed to implementing a series of actions aimed at reducing the risk of spills from drills. One of these actions is to install water level sensors on the decantation tanks which will be connected to a signal light system installed in the drill shake. The intention to implement this action was communicated via a Letter of Intent provided by Orbit to Agnico Eagle on April 28th, 2022 and is available upon request of regulatory bodies.



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