

Follow Up Report: #2022111

April 3rd, 2022,

6 L Contaminated Water on Waterbody A8



The following information relates to spill #2022111 reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited on April 3rd, 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 April 3rd, 2022, during an environmental inspection of the Orbit drill rigs located on waterbody A8, a worker identified water leaking from the heating unit sea-can to the surface of the ice. Upon inspecting the heating unit sea-can, it was discovered that the water recirculation pump had failed, which resulted in 6 L of contaminated water to leak inside on the sea-can floor thus being released on the surface of the ice. It is suspected the water came in contact with the heating sea-can floor which contained traces of hydrocarbons, and therefore is treated as contaminated water spill. No contaminated water entered the waterbody as it was contained on the surface of the ice cover.

The coordinates of the spill are: 63° 0' 34.15" N, 92°12'11.74"W, which is on waterbody A8.



Figure 1: Contaminated water spill location

Spill Response & Cleanup:

Orbit Garant immediately stopped the recirculation water pump. The contaminated ice and water were shoveled and brought to the contaminated snow cell where it will be stored until snowmelt, at which point the contaminated water will be transferred to the Landfarm for treatment at the oil-water separator, with the other existing material accumulated during Winter, as per the Water Management Plan.



Figure 2: Spill Location- Post cleanup

Cause of Incident and Corrective Measures

The release was a result of equipment failure as the pump recirculation pump failed. The pump was changed immediately to prevent another potential spill.

These pumps are inspected daily as per the normal pre-operations of the drill and during the April 3rd, 2022 visual inspection, no issues with the pump were visible and starting of the operations was normal. Orbit conducts mechanical verification on the pumps every two weeks – these verifications, alongside the daily pre-operation's inspections will continue to be conducted, reducing the likelihood of equipment malfunctions.



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