

Follow Up Report: #2022206

May 24th, 2022

B38 Post Drilling



The following information refers to a spill reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (AEM) on May 24th, 2022, 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(7).

Description of the Incident:

On May 24th, 2022, during a post drilling visual inspection AEM identified material related to drilling activities on lake B38. Similar to report 2002188 activities to cleanup the material were immediately initiated.



Figure 1: Lake B38 location

Spill Response & Clean-up:

After the inspection, Orbit Garant and AEM's Exploration Geology and Environment Departments began a collaborative effort to clean up lake B38 and the shore of lake B38 on a regular basis, pending conditions were safe to proceed. The clean-up efforts began on May 24th, 2022 and were completed on May 29th, 2022. Each clean-up activity is documented in Table 1.

Some materials were frozen in place and couldn't be removed safely such as freshwater lines. These items were identified with buoys and GPS locations and will be removed by helicopter when safe to do so during the ice-free season.



Figure 2: Drilling debris clean-up from clean-up efforts on May 29th, 2022

Table 1 – Clean-up activities from May 24th to May 29th

Date ▾	Time ▾	Lake ▾	Material collected ▾	LAT ▾	LONG ▾	Photo ▾	Photo# ▾	Comments ▾
5/24/2022	14:51	B38	Drill casing (laying on the ground)	540543.94	6986477	Yes	20220525-01	Drill casing not installed; laying on top of tundra (Orbit to recover)
5/25/2022	12:33	B38	Drill Cuttings	540060.13	6986734.23	Yes	20250525-02	Drill cuttings were hand shoveled and brought back to site for disposal
5/29/2022		B38	Various materials			Yes	20220529-B38-1	Geology team conducted a large clean up around B38

Cause of the Incident and Corrective Measures:

Similar to spill 2022188, the cause of the event has been attributed to a combination of three factors. Firstly, insufficient follow-up with training and implementation of drilling on ice procedures due to crew reorganizations/shortages as a result of the covid-19 pandemic. Secondly, a high magnitude of snow deposition and drifting in the area which buried the material out-of-site during drill activities. Thirdly, an earlier than expected snowmelt period which inhibited completion of a sufficient post-drilling on ice season clean-up prior to the progression of the 2022 snowmelt period.

As previously explained, a thorough clean-up campaign was implemented on lake B38 to remove debris and substances related to drilling activities (suspected drill cuttings) in the area. The efforts are summarized in Table 1.

In a Letter of Intent date April 28th, 2022 addressed to AEM and shared with CIRNAC and ECCC, Orbit Garant committed to several actions to mitigate spill occurrences during the next drilling on ice season, at various levels of their operations (training, procedures, engineered controls, data collection methodology, etc.).

Furthermore, during a meeting held May 17, 2022, AEM, Orbit Garant, CIRNAC and ECCC discussed the observations made during the 2022 drilling on ice season and identified corrective measures aimed to prevent the occurrence of similar events in the future. In this meeting, AEM and Orbit Garant further committed to the development and implementation of a comprehensive exploration drilling action plan prior to the start of next season's winter drilling.

AEM will submit the comprehensive exploration drilling action plan, prior to start of the next winter drilling season, to the Nunavut Water Board and the Inspector, as well as to ECCC, as agreed with CIRNAC and ECCC.