

May 14, 2023

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## **Re: Follow-up Report Spill #2023-151 – Release of 40 L of Drill Cuttings Meliadine Gold Mine, Unnamed Waterbody**

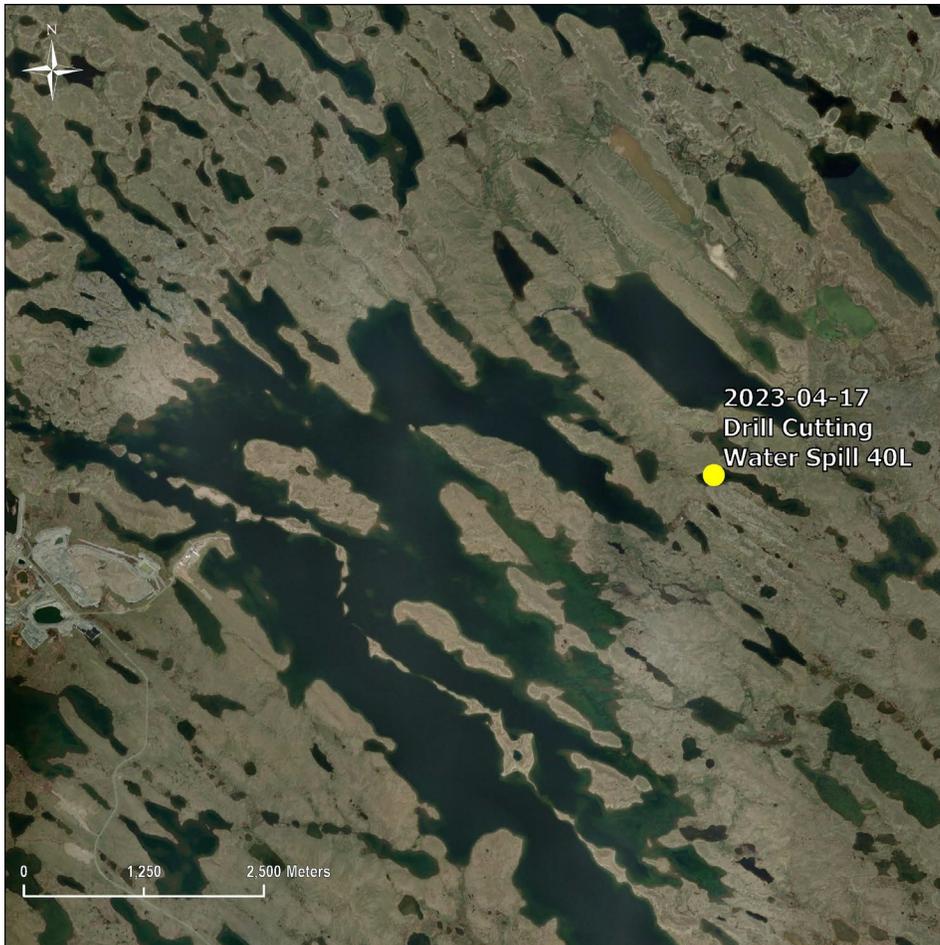
On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Nunavut Spill Line was notified by Agnico Eagle personnel via email ([spills@gov.nt.ca](mailto:spills@gov.nt.ca)) of a spill of approximately 40 L of drill cuttings at the Meliadine Gold Mine (spill location coordinates: 63° 2' 07.3" N, 92° 3' 47.8" W). This follow-up report provides supplemental information based on the results of the incident assessment 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 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Orbit Garant Drilling was removing their drilling equipment from the ice surface of an unnamed waterbody approximately 7.5 kilometers east of the Meliadine Gold Mine industrial pad. At approximately 3:30 am on April 17<sup>th</sup>, the drill crew prepared to drag two skid-mounted units of drilling equipment, chained in series, behind a tractor. The last unit in the train was the cuttings recirculation unit. Due to the lack of daylight and the cuttings recirculation unit being at the back of the train, the drilling crew did not notice the spill of 40 L of drill cuttings to the ice surface as the equipment left the site. The spill was discovered during the post-drilling inspection on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at approximately 15:30. The location of the spill is shown in Figure 1.

As Agnico Eagle has not assessed this waterbody for fish presence, it is assumed to be frequented by fish, however, at the time of the incident the water body was frozen to bottom.



**Figure 1:** Drill Cuttings Spill Location.

## Spill Response and Remediation

Logistical issues with equipment transportation to the spill site delayed the start of cleanup. Equipment was mobilized on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with a dozer, skid steer and an equipment sled used to recover the spilled drill cuttings. Final cleanup was complete on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The frozen material was scraped off the frozen waterbody surface and deposited in a natural depression previously used for drill cuttings disposal which was approved by the Environment Department.

## Root Cause and Corrective Measures

An incident assessment was conducted soon after the incident occurred to determine the root cause and contributing factors. The assessment concluded with the following:

- Prior to conducting the move, the drill cutting recirculation unit was not cleaned.

The following corrective and preventative actions have been implemented to address the root cause and to reduce the likelihood of reoccurrence:

- The drill transportation procedure will be updated to ensure the cuttings recirculation unit is cleaned prior to transportation.
- The updated drill transportation procedure will be reviewed with the Orbit Garant drilling crews.



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Sent from Meliadine



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## Appendix – Photos



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**Photos 1:** 40 L Drill cuttings water spill.



**Photos 2:** 40 L drill cuttings water spill post remediation.