May 2nd, 2024

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Re: Follow-up Report Spill #2024-126 – Release of 10 L of Lubricant at the Meliadine Gold Mine, Lake B5 Waterbody

On April 25th, 2024, at 5:45 pm, the Nunavut Spill Line was notified by Agnico Eagle personnel via email (spills@gov.nt.ca) of a spill of approximately 10 L of lubricant at the Meliadine Gold Mine (spill location coordinates: 63° 1' 33.94" N, 92° 15' 23.75" 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; and
- the Fisheries Act subsection 38(7).

Description of Incident

On April 25th, 2024, at 12:30 pm, a dozer being operated by Orbit Garant Drilling was pulling a freshwater sea-can to a drill rig when the sea-can slid into the back of the dozer. The dozer began slowly leaking lubricant while completing the sea-can move. When the leak was noticed, approximately 10 L of lubricant was estimated to have been released onto the snow on the frozen surface of Lake B5, approximately 1.8 kilometers west of the Meliadine Gold Mine industrial pad. The location of the spill is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Location of the 10 L lubricant spill.

Spill Response and Remediation

Due to the leak from the dozer not being noticed right away, the spill was spread along the 1-kilometer path leading to a regional exploration drilling site. Orbit Garant workers retraced the path of the dozer to hand excavate a portion of the contaminated snow into drums. The remaining contaminated snow along the path was removed using a skid steer. The contaminated snow was disposed of in the contaminated snow cell on site.

Following the incident, all dozers being used as part of the drilling on ice campaign were inspected. An unsecured cover plate was found on the bottom of a dozer being used for drilling activities on nearby Lake A8. The cover plate was cleaned and secured correctly and lubricant residue found under the dozer was cleaned up and disposed of at the contaminated snow cell.

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 the following:

- The winch attachment was not installed on the dozer when pulling the freshwater sea-can, which offers protection to the rear of the dozer; and
- The dozer was not inspected after the collision with the freshwater sea-can.

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

- Orbit Garant workers were provided a toolbox meeting regarding safe operation of dozers when towing sea-cans, the requirement to inspect the equipment if the sea-can makes contact with the dozer, and the requirement to have drip trays present under the dozer;
- The dozer which collided with the freshwater sea-can has been pulled off the ice and will not be returned to operation until the damaged lubricant tank is repaired and the winch attachment installed; and
- The dozer pre-operation inspection sheet will be modified to include a checklist item requiring the use of a drip tray when the dozer is parked.

AGNICO EAGLE
MELIADINE

Appendix – Photos

Photo 1: Spill location along the dozer path.

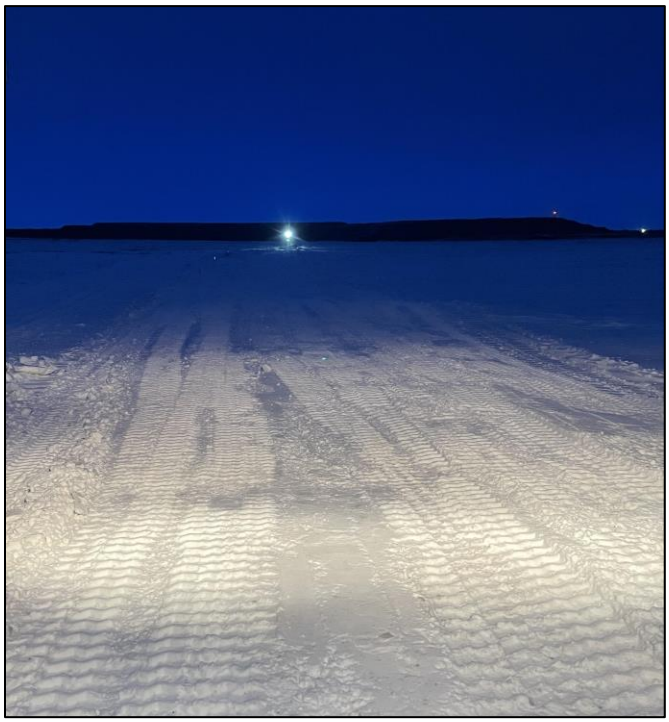

Photo 2: Spill area post remediation.