

SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN
For Camps and Remote Operations

Northern Empire Minerals Ltd.

Draft: March, 2003

030415 NWB2 NCR Spill Plan - ILAE

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1.0 Introduction

The Northern Empire Minerals Ltd. Spill Contingency Plan shall be in effect from February 01, 2003 to February 2008. All future amendments will be posted and recorded on the attached amendment record form.

This Northern Empire Minerals Ltd. Spill Contingency Plan encompasses all its present camps and active remote sites in Canada.

This Spill Contingency Plan is posted at operational remote sites.

Northern Empire Minerals Ltd. endeavors to take every reasonable precaution toward ensuring the protection and conservation of the natural environment, the safety and health of Northern Empire Minerals Ltd. employees and contractors and (protecting) the community (at large) from any harmful effects of its materials and operations.

2.0 Facilities

Proposed locations: (UTM Nad 27, Zone 16) 7488731, 402504; 7697258, 642997; 7608543, 650929

3.0 Petroleum and Chemical Product Storage and Inventory

3.1 Remote Location Fuel Inventory, Storage and Handling Procedures

At times, Northern Empire Minerals Ltd. may establish remote fuel caches for company use. Typically these caches would consist of 8 drums or less of jet fuel, stored in accordance with CSA approved methods of storage of drummed product.

3.2 Petroleum Product Transfer

Manual and automatic pumps (and aviation fuel filters for jet fuel) are used for the transfer of all petroleum products. Smoking, sparks, or open flame are prohibited in fuel storage and fuelling areas at all times.

4.0 Risk Assessment and Mitigation of Risk

4.1 Petroleum Products and Other Fuels

Following, is a list of potential sources of fuel spills:

- 1) Drummed product: Leaks or ruptures may occur. This includes drums of Jet B, Waste Fuel, Waste Oil.
- 2) Fuel cylinders: Propane, leaks may occur at the valves. All cylinders are secured at all times.
- 3) Vehicles and equipment: Wheeled vehicles and equipment, aircraft (fixed and rotary wing), snowmobiles, generators, pumps. Incidents involving leaking or dripping fuels and oils may occur due to malfunctions, impact damage, and lack of regular maintenance, improper storage, or faulty operation.

Regular inspection and maintenance in accordance with recognized and accepted standard practices at all Northern Empire Minerals Ltd. camps, reduces risks associated with the categories listed above.

Spill response training is provided to personnel who handle fuels and other petroleum products, and at least one emergency response drill will be held during the season. A report will be prepared by the response coordinator following each drill, noting response time, personnel involved and any problems or deficiencies encountered. This report will be used to evaluate emergency response capability and remedy any deficiencies if required.

Oil/Fuel Spill Kits are positioned at all camps. A list of Spill Kits, their location, description, and contents are listed in Section 8.

5.0 Responding to Failures and Spills

5.1 Spill Response Contact List

APEX Geoscience Ltd.
#200, 9797-45 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6E 5V8
Dean Besserer, Vice-President and Project Supervisor

Work: (780) 439 5380
Cell: (780) 916 5782

5.2 Basic Steps — Spill Procedure

In the case of any spill or other environmental emergency, it is necessary to react in the most immediate, safe, and environmentally responsible manner. No spill or incident is so minor that it can be ignored.

The basic steps of the response plan are as follows:

1. Ensure the safety of all persons at all times.
2. Identify and find the spill substance and its source, and, if possible, stop the process or shut off the source.
3. Inform the immediate supervisor or his/her designate at once, so that he/she may take appropriated action. (Appropriate action includes the notification of a government official, if required, Spill Report forms are included in Appendix 3.
4. Contain the spill or environmental hazard, as per its nature, and as per the advice of the Spill Line as required.
5. Implement any necessary cleanup or remedial action.

5.3 Basic Steps — Chain of Command

1. Immediately notify Northern Empire Minerals Ltd.. You may then be instructed to directly contact the *NWT 24 HOUR SPILL LINE and/or the DIAND 24Hour Line* at: NWT Spill Line Tel. 1-867-920-8130, Fx. 1-867-873-6924. Diand Tel. 1-867-975 4298

- #### 5.4 Other contacts for spill response/assistance

Dave Tilden: Yellowknife: 867-669-4728

Land Use Inspection: Keb Dahl: 867-669-2757

Fisheries and Oceans Canada Ron Allen: 867-669-6641

GNWT Environmental Protection Service Ken Hall: 867-876-7654

6.1 Before the Fact: Preventative Measures

1. Fuel transfer hoses with cam lock mechanisms are used.
2. Carefully monitor fuel content in the receiving vessel during transfer.
3. Clean up drips and minor spills immediately.
4. Regularly inspect drums, tanks and hoses for leaks or potential to leak.
6. Train personnel, especially those who will be operators, in proper fuel handling and spill response procedures.

1. First steps to take when a spill occurs:
 - a) Ensure your own safety and that of others around you, beginning with those nearest to the scene.
 - b) Control danger to human life, if necessary.
 - c) Identify the source of the spill.
 - d) Notify your supervisor.
 - e) Assess whether or not the spill can be readily stopped.
 - f) Contain or stop the spill at the source, if possible, by following these actions:

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Close or shut off valves.

Place plastic sheeting at the foot of the tank, barrel, or piece of equipment to prevent seepage into the ground or runoff of fuel

Use absorbent materials (sheets, pads, booms) to absorb and contain the fuel spill.

Use a patch kit to seal leaks, if practical to do so.

2. Secondary steps to take:

Determine status of the spill event.

If necessary, pump fuel from a damaged and/or leaking tank or drum into a refuge container.

Notify the 24-hour Spill Report Line, and receive further instructions from the appropriate contact agencies listed in *Section 5.4*. (e.g. disposal of contaminated soil or ice/snow in sealed containers for removal from site, etc.).

Complete and Fax a copy of the Spill Report Form (*Appendix 3*).

Notify permitting authorities.

If possible, resume cleanup and containment.

6.3 Fuel Spills on Land

“Land” may be defined as soil, gravel, sand, rock, and vegetation. Advice on spill containment and cleanup may be obtained from the 24-Hour Spill Line.

6.3.1 Procedure for Spills on Rock

For hydrocarbon spills on rock outcrops, boulder fields, etc.:

- 1) First responder or his designate obtains plastic tarp(s) and absorbent sheeting on-site.
- 2) A berm of peat, native soil or snow is constructed down slope of the seepage or spill.
- 3) The tarp is placed in such a way that the fuel can pool for collection and removal (e.g. at the foot of the berm). If there is a large volume of spilled product, pump the liquid into spare empty drums for sealing and disposal.
- 4) Absorbent sheeting is placed on the rock to soak up spilled oil, fuel, etc.
- 5) Multi Sorb (crushed lava rock) can be used to scrub the rock surface.
- 6) Saturated material is disposed of in an empty drum, which is then labeled and sealed. Alternatively, the pads may be wrung out into the empty drum(s), the drums marked and then secured for eventual disposal.
- 7) Depending on the nature and volume of the spill, the 24-Hour Spill Line may be contacted after Step 4 or Step 5.

6.3.2 Procedure for Spills on Land

- 1) First responder or his designate obtains plastic tarp(s), absorbent sheeting, Multi Sorb or other ultra-dry absorbent and any other necessary spill containment equipment, pump, hoses, etc.
- 2) A berm of peat, native soil or snow is constructed down slope of the seepage or spill.
- 3) The tarp is placed in such a way that the fuel can pool for collection and removal (e.g. at the foot of the berm). If there is a large volume of spilled product, pump the liquid into spare empty drums, and dispose of product as advised by the 24-Hour Spill Line.
- 4) Petroleum-product sheen on vegetation may be controlled by applying a thin dusting of Multi Sorb or other ultra-dry absorbent to the groundcover.
- 5) Contact the 24-Hour Spill Line, Receive instructions from the appropriate contact agencies listed in *Section 5.4* regarding collection of the contaminated soil or

vegetation, its removal and site cleanup/restoration.

6.4 Fuel Spills on Water

6.4.1 Procedure for Spills on Water

It is important to immediately limit the extent of spills. The following is the procedure to be implemented when an incident occurs:

- 1) If the spill is small, deploy hydrophobic (water repellent) absorbent pads on the water. Hydrophobic pads readily absorb hydrocarbons. Alternatively, an ultra-dry absorbent designed for use on water-based spills may be deployed.
- 2) If the spill is larger, ready several empty drums to act as refuge containers for the spill.
- 3) Deploy *containment* booms on the water surface to “fence in” the spill area gradually and to prevent it from spreading. Keep in mind those environmental factors such as high winds and wave action can adversely affect attempts at spill cleanup.
- 4) *Absorbent* booms can then be deployed to encircle and then absorb any hydrocarbon spillage that may have escaped the *containment* boom.
- 5) Once a boom has been secured, a skimmer may be brought on-scene to aid in capture of the hydrocarbon; once captured, the product should be pumped to the empty fuel drums and held for disposal.
- 6) As soon as possible either during or after the incident, contact the 24-Hour Spill Line. (This will ensure government agencies are informed).

6.5 Fuel spills on Snow and Ice

By its nature, snow is an absorbent, and fuel spilled on snow is collected with relative ease, either by shovel, in the case of small-range spills, and by loader, in the case of more extensive spills.

6.5.1 Procedure for Spills on Snow

- 1) Assess the nature of the spill. Necessary equipment might include shovels, plastic tarp(s), empty drums, and wheeled equipment.
- 2) Shovel or scrape contaminated snow and deposit in empty refuge drums. If the spill is more extensive, build peat-bale berms or compacted snow berms with *plastic* over top, around the affected area.
- 3) Either during or immediately after the accident, notify the 24-Hour Spill Line. Receive instructions on the preferred disposal method (e.g. storage in sealed drums, incineration or deposit in a designated lined containment area on land) from the appropriate contact agencies listed in *Section 5.4*.

6.5.2 Procedure for spills on Ice

Spills on ice are handled in similar fashion as those on snow. However, as ice presents the added danger of immediate access to water, care must be taken to respond quickly to such spills. Should fuel seep or flow through cracks or breaks in the ice, despite all precautions, assistance should be sought immediately.

- 1) Construct a compacted-snow berm around the edge of the spill area.
- 2) Although hard ice will retard or prevent fuel entry to the receiving waters below, all contaminated snow and ice, as well as objects embedded in the ice (such as gravel or frozen absorbent pads) must be scraped from the ice surface and disposed of in an appropriated manner.
- 3) Contact the 24-Hour Spill Line. Receive disposal instructions (e.g. sealing in drums, burn off, etc.) from the appropriate contact agencies listed in *Section 5.4*.

6.6 Procedure for Chemical Spills

- 1) Assess the hazard of the spilled material. REFER TO THE MSDS SHEETS NOW. Members of the emergency response team who might be susceptible in certain situations, (such as asthmatics, where fumes or airborne particles are evident), should be replaced with alternates.
- 2) Assemble the necessary safety equipment before response (e.g. latex or other protective gloves, goggles, or safety glasses, masks or breathers, etc.)
- 3) Apply absorbents to soak up liquids.
- 4) Place plastic sheeting over solid chemicals, such as dusts and powders, to prevent their disbursement by wind or investigation by birds or other mammals.
- 5) Neutralize acids or caustics. Place spilled material and contaminated cleanup supplies in an empty refuge drum and seal for disposal.
- 6) Contact the 24-Hour Spill Line. Receive instructions on disposal methods and designated locations from the appropriate contact agencies listed in *Section 5.4*.

6.7 Procedure for Loss of External Load

The loss of external loads of fuel, oil, or chemicals from aircraft almost certainly results in complete and catastrophic failure of the container that once held the product. Immediate response is imperative.

- 1) Mark the loss target with GPS coordinates and relay to camp or base ASAP. Include quantity and type of load loss.
- 2) Base or camp will contact 24-Hour Spill Line, and receive direction and instruction.
- 3) Administer the appropriate procedure for Spills on Land, Water, Snow, or Ice.

7.0 Spill Equipment

Complete spill kits, oil absorbent kits, are kept on hand at all camps. Spill kits contain Multi Sorb, crushed lava rock, hydrophobic absorbant matting, goggles, plastic sheeting, protective gloves, shovel, garbage bags, empty drum.

8.0 Training and Practice Drills

8.1 Training

All members of the Response Team will be familiar with the spill response resources at hand, this Contingency Plan, and appropriate spill response methods. Involvement of other employees may be required, from time to time.

This familiarity will be acquired through:

- 1) Initial or refresher training, as appropriate, provided once per season.

- 2) Regular inventory updates are provided in list form to all team members. Information to be reported includes listing of all resources, number of items, their location, condition, date of last inspection and any special comments (such as expiry dates, under whose authority they may be accessed and special handling instructions).

8.2 Practice Drills

Northern Empire Minerals Ltd. is aware that without practice, no Contingency Plan has value.

At least one practice drill will be held per season to give personnel a chance to practice emergency response skills. Each practice will be evaluated and a report prepared with the objective of learning where gaps and deficiencies (either in skills or physical resources) exist, and in what areas more practice is required.

Appendix #1

Manual Distribution

Title

Company President

Geologists

Safety Officer

Melville Camps

An amendment instruction sheet shall be included that lists and identifies pages in the manual to be added or replaced.

Amendment No.	Amendment Date	Date Entered	Entered By

Appendix #2