

# DE BEERS

GROUP OF COMPANIES

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Tracy Covey  
Resource Management Officer (Inspector)  
16 Yellowknife Airport  
Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 3T2

Mr. Covey

**Re: Follow-up Spill Report – Excavator Through Ice – De Beers Gahcho Kue Mine – 30 December 2014**

**Incident Summary:**

At approximately 1:00am on 30 December 2014, a PC-390 excavator was removing lake bed grounded ice as part of the Kennady Lake Area 3 dewatering jetty construction activities.

While clearing the lake bed grounded ice, the excavator was mistakenly positioned over a portion of the lake ice that was not in-fact grounded. The ice gave way causing the excavator to fall through and come to rest upright in approximately 4 feet of water which allowed the operator to safely exit the excavator. Site personnel were immediately notified and retrieval of the excavator from the water was initiated. The excavator was towed out of the water and onto the partially constructed jetty by a bull dozer.

Inspection of the area revealed a faint sheen of hydrocarbons on the surface of the water caused by the washing of limited greases from the undercarriage of the excavator. Further inspection of the area revealed surface staining of the granular material on the jetty.

In response to the spilled material on the jetty, the hydrocarbon impacted material was immediately excavated and placed in the existing lined containment at the Advanced Exploration Camp. Absorbent pads could not be deployed to remove the sheening of the waters at the location of the break through due to safety concerns as well as the fact that ice crush had back-filled the hole. It should be noted that this portion of the lake is isolated from the Dyke A cofferdam.

After the area was secured and the excavator removed, the fuel tank of the excavator was assessed and found to be competent alleviating the concern of a full tank rupture and loss of entire contents into Area 3 of Kennady Lake. The assessment revealed that the cause of the release of the estimated 105 L to land was confirmed to be the loosening of the fuel filter during retrieval operations.

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An NT-NU Spill Report was completed and submitted via email to [spills@gov.nt.ca](mailto:spills@gov.nt.ca) at 8:02pm on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

## **Root Cause Analysis:**

The results of the internal De Beers investigation revealed that the incident's primary cause was related to improper positioning of equipment when compared to planned work activities as well as miscommunication of information between supervisors and work crew as the excavator operator was not adequately briefed regarding the fact that areas nearby the jetty were not lake bed grounded and posed a potential hazard.

## **Corrective Actions:**

Several corrective actions were created as a result of this incident:

- Prior to the commencement of operations involving close proximity to water, the work area is to be profiled and clearly demarcated for hazards present;
- Reinforcement of the importance of Job Hazard Assessment (JHA) and Reporting to all staff operating equipment on site;
- Review and alterations to existing Operating Instructions with emphasis of integrating lessons learned from this incident;
- Improvement of communications of work tasks and associated hazards by using media such as drawings and maps that serve to enhance and re-enforce verbal instructions.

The internal investigation relating to this incident has been concluded and corrective actions implemented. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at your convenience.

Thank You



Patrick Kramers  
Environmental Superintendent / Gahcho Kué Project

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**Attachments:**

The following attachments are included with this follow-up report:

1. Copy of the original spill report.
2. Photos of:
  - a. PC-390 Excavator Positioning After Breach Through Ice
  - b. PC-390 Excavator After Removal From Kennasy Lake
  - c. Contaminated Granular Material Placed Within Appropriate Containment

# NT-NU SPILL REPORT

OIL, GASOLINE, CHEMICALS AND  
OTHER HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



## NT-NU 24-HOUR SPILL REPORT LINE

Tel: (867) 920-8130 • Fax: (867) 873-6924 • Email: spills@gov.nt.ca

### REPORT LINE USE ONLY

A	Report Date: MM   DD   YY	Report Time:	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Spill Report <b>OR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Update # to the Original Spill Report	Report Number:	
	Occurrence Date: MM   DD   YY	Occurrence Time:			
C	Land Use Permit Number (if applicable):	Water Licence Number (if applicable):			
D	Geographic Place Name or Distance and Direction from the Named Location:	Region: <input type="checkbox"/> NT <input type="checkbox"/> Nunavut <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent Jurisdiction or Ocean			
E	Latitude: _____ Degrees _____ Minutes _____ Seconds	Longitude: _____ Degrees _____ Minutes _____ Seconds			
F	Responsible Party or Vessel Name:	Responsible Party Address or Office Location:			
G	Any Contractor Involved:	Contractor Address or Office Location:			
H	Product Spilled: <input type="checkbox"/> Potential Spill	Quantity in Litres, Kilograms or Cubic Metres:	U.N. Number:		
I	Spill Source:	Spill Cause:	Area of Contamination in Square Metres:		
J	Factors Affecting Spill or Recovery:	Describe Any Assistance Required:	Hazards to Persons, Property or Environment:		
K	Additional Information, Comments, Actions Proposed or Taken to Contain, Recover or Dispose of Spilled Product and Contaminated Materials:				
L	Reported to Spill Line by:	Position:	Employer:	Location Calling From:	Telephone:
M	Any Alternate Contact:	Position:	Employer:	Alternate Contact Location:	Alternate Telephone:

### REPORT LINE USE ONLY

N	Received at Spill Line by:	Position:	Employer:	Location Called:	Report Line Number:
Lead Agency: <input type="checkbox"/> EC <input type="checkbox"/> CCG/TCMSS <input type="checkbox"/> GNWT <input type="checkbox"/> GN <input type="checkbox"/> ILA <input type="checkbox"/> AANDC <input type="checkbox"/> NEB <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/> Major <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		File Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Open <input type="checkbox"/> Closed
<b>Agency:</b>	<b>Contact Name:</b>	<b>Contact Name:</b>	<b>Remarks:</b>		
Lead Agency:					
First Support Agency:					
Second Support Agency:					
Third Support Agency:					

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Photo 1 – PC-390 Excavator Positioning After Breach Through Ice



Photo 2 – PC-390 After Retrieval From Kennady Lake

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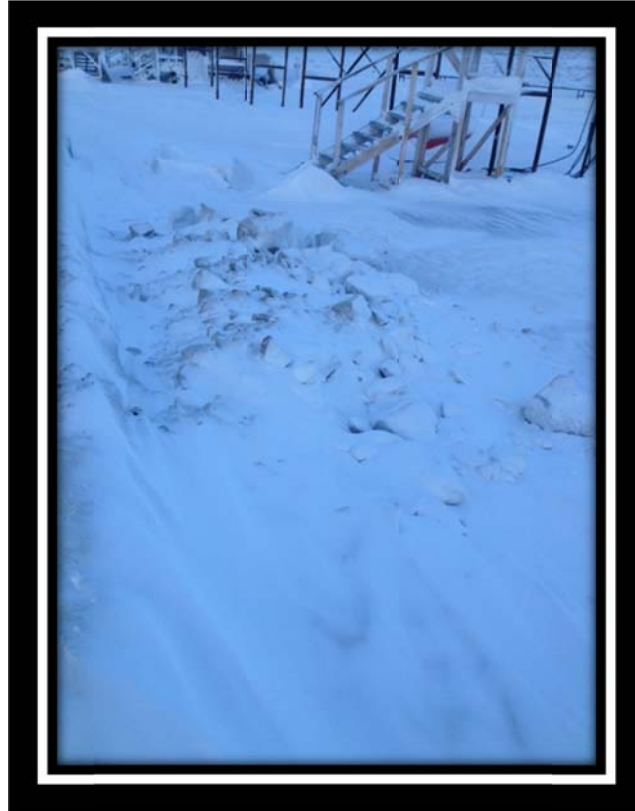


Photo 3 – Contaminated Granular Material Placed Within Appropriate Containment (Existing Lined Area at the AEP Camp)

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