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Mr. Joseph Heron
Resource Management Officer III (Inspector)
Land & Water North Slave Regional Office
Environment and Climate Change
Government of the Northwest Territories
#140 Bristol Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3T2
Canada

January 27, 2024

Our reference: DDMI Incident number 1000648218

Your reference: GNWT Spill 2023530

Dear Mr. Heron,

Subject: Follow-up to GNWT Spill report 2023530

Summary:

On December 27 at approximately 12:07pm a worker travelling on the South Haul Road reported a leak from the Processed Kimberlite to Mine Workings (PKMW) line 312 in Pond 5 (Figure 1). After reporting the leak, flow from the line was stopped and drained to allow for an investigation. The investigation showed a significant decrease in pressure in the line at 12:10am on December 27 from a burst drainage valve (Figure 2 and 3). An estimated 1,680 m³ was released into Pond 5 (Figure 4). No spilled material reached the receiving environment as it was all contained within Diavik's drainage and collection control system.



Figure 1 Spill 2023530 Location indicated by the red dot.



Figure 2 Broken valve during release

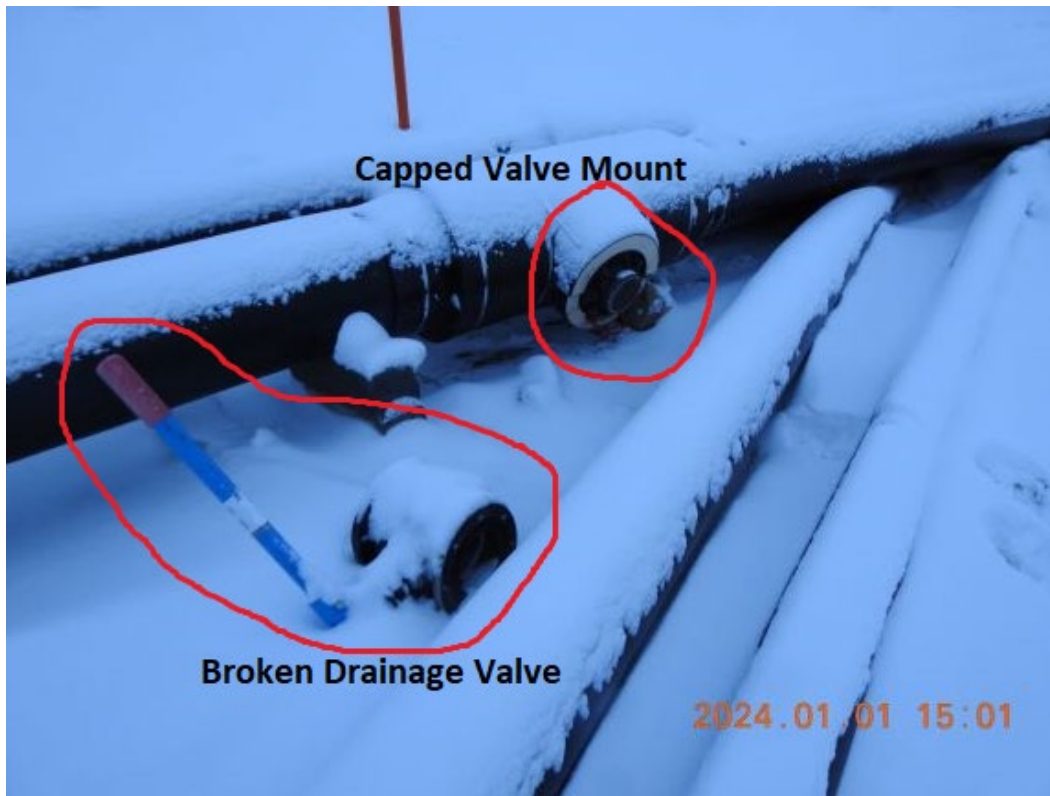


Figure 3 Capped valve mount and broken drainage valve



Figure 4 Release into Pond 5

Immediate Action:

- Flow to the line was immediately shut down so the line could be drained for repairs.
- Line was locked out for repairs.
- Environment department was notified of the spill.
- The valve mount has been capped until replacement can be made.

Follow-up Action:

An investigation of all drain valves on the 311 and 312 PKMW lines has been completed. Results of investigation indicate that the reason for failure at those valves was that they were actuated during commissioning of the line, so the ball valve had water in it, which expanded in the low temperatures resulting in the failure. The rest of the drain valves were not actuated so the risk of similar failure mechanism is minimal. Out of an abundance of caution, DDMI has identified a different, frost-resistant valve, and will begin replacing existing valves with the new variety in the future.

Should you require further information or clarification on the above noted spill, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Nelson
Superintendent, Environment & Closure
Cross Shift: Nicole Goodman

CC: Marie-Eve Cyr, WLWB

Anneli Jokela, WLWB