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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

20 August 2024

Our reference: DDMI Incident number 4088576141_41971
Your reference: GNWT Spill 2024285

Dear Mr. Heron,

Subject: Follow-up to GNWT Spill report 2024285

Summary:

- On 23 July 2024, at approximately 3:30 pm, a Surface Geotechnical employee working in the area near the North Inlet Water Treatment Plant reported a leak in the Process Plant Wet Well pipeline (Figure 1).
- Upon further investigation, it is estimated the leak began at approximately 9:30 am on 21 July 2024.
- Approximately 2,800 m³ of mine contact water was released and pooled approximately 10 m away from pipeline failure (Figure 2). Leak occurred at a portion of pipeline that was enclosed in a berm, causing the spill to not be visible from regular operating areas.
- Initial investigation determined that the spill was a result of a blown gasket inside flange insulation (Figure 3) caused by an over-pressure in the line.
- All spilled material was contained within the Drainage Control and Collection System (DCCS) and no material was released to the receiving environment.

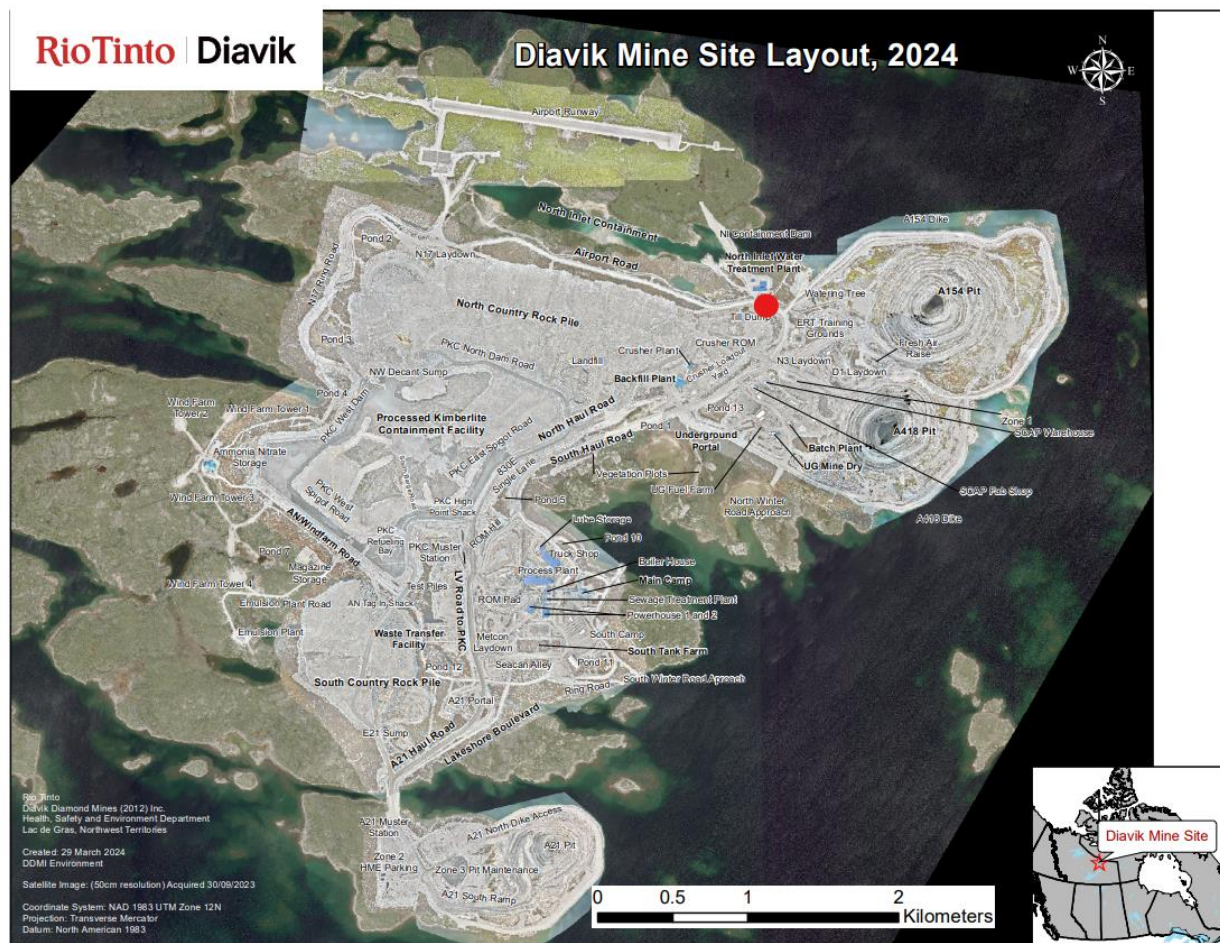


Figure 1: Spill 2024285 Location indicated by the red dot.



Figure 2: Spilled material exiting berm and pooling.



Figure 3: Location of spill after pipeline flow was turned off.



Figure 4: Failed gasket removed and joint bolted.

Immediate Action:

- Upon discovery of leak, Process Plant Control Room was notified and pumps on the line were shut off.
- Spill reported to Environment Department.
- System isolated and drained.
- Investigation into cause of leak conducted by maintenance crew.

Follow-up Action:

- Diavik reported spill to online spill reporting line and notified the GNWT-ECCC Inspector.
- Pipeline failure repaired. Gasket component removed entirely and pipeline joint bolted together to prevent future leaks at location of failure (Figure 4).
- Signage posted on Collection Pond pump shacks requiring operators to call Process Plant Control Room before starting pumps.
- Prioritized inspection of HDPE pipe gaskets where the pipes are in close proximity to Lac de Gras.

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

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Breen
Chief Operating Officer

CC: Marie-Eve Cyr, WLWB
Anneli Jokela, WLWB