

From: Koehn, Terry K - DNR
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 4:23 PM
To: Fauble, Philip N - DNR
Subject: Flambeau Infiltration Basins April 12, 2013

On Friday afternoon April 12, 2013 I drove to the Flambeau Mine Site in Ladysmith to observe the condition/water levels in the infiltration basins. As reported they old Biofilter – southeast basin was nearly full of runoff water. There was still a fair amount of snow in the area that should soon be melting, adding water to the basins. It was snowing lightly the day of the inspection.

As informed Flambeau had taken steps toward lowering the water level by pumping water from the Biofilter basin toward the actual mine pit area. No one was at the site representing Flambeau while I was present, but the pump was running and actively removing water.

At the time of the inspection the staff gauge in the Biofilter basin read approximately 3 feet 3 inches. Although I am not aware of the top of the berm level for the staff gauge it appeared to be around 4 ft 3 inches. It appeared to me that there was around a foot of freeboard present at the time of the inspection.

Water was flowing from the northeast basin into the Biofilter basin as designed. The water level in the western basin was relatively low as compared to the top of the basin’s berm.

A couple pictures are attached.



- Photo 439 – Biofilter Basin looking north – staff gauge in foreground.
- Photo 440 – Biofilter Basin looking east – Indicates limited freeboard.
- Photo 442 – Northeast Basin looking southwest – DNR office in background.
- Photo 443 – Discharge point to the northwest of the Biofilter basin – looking north.
- Photo 444 – Western Basin looking west.











From: Fauble, Philip N - DNR
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 10:07 AM
To: 'Kozicki, Sharon V F'; Donohue, Steve
Cc: Kleist, Jon J - DNR; Moore, Bruce A - DNR; Aartila, Tom P - DNR; Jana Murphy (janamurphy@centurylink.net); Dave Cline; Hank Handzel
Subject: RE: Infiltration Basins at the Flambeau Mine Site

Thanks Sharon. I had Terry run down there on Friday to document things and he said the pumping setup was running well. The basins did not overtop, but he verified that they had no more than 1 foot of freeboard (about the same level as last year).

Philip Fauble, P.G.
Mining & Beneficial Reuse Program Coordinator Bureau of Waste & Materials Management Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
(*) phone: (608) 267-3538
(*) fax: (608) 267-2768
(*) e-mail: Philip.Fauble@Wisconsin.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Kozicki, Sharon V F [mailto:Sharon.Kozicki@Foth.com]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:15 PM
To: Fauble, Philip N - DNR; Donohue, Steve
Cc: Kleist, Jon J - DNR; Moore, Bruce A - DNR; Aartila, Tom P - DNR; Jana Murphy (janamurphy@centurylink.net); Dave Cline; Hank Handzel
Subject: RE: Infiltration Basins at the Flambeau Mine Site

Thanks Phil,

Pumping has been going on since this morning and levels are down 4-inches now in the North and East Basins. The pump will continue to run into tomorrow and I will update everyone when the North and East Basins are pumped down.

Have a good weekend.

Sharon

Sharon V.F. Kozicki, P.G., C.E.M.
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Go Green, keep it on the screen. Please do not print this email unless necessary.

-----Original Message-----

From: Fauble, Philip N - DNR [mailto:Philip.Fauble@Wisconsin.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2013 2:42 PM

To: Kozicki, Sharon V F; Donohue, Steve
Cc: Kleist, Jon J - DNR; Moore, Bruce A - DNR; Aartila, Tom P - DNR; Jana Murphy (janamurphy@centurylink.net)
Subject: RE: Infiltration Basins at the Flambeau Mine Site

Thank you very much for your prompt response to this situation. And thanks to Jon for bringing this to our attention and, quite correctly, sounding the alarm.

On a broader issue, we clearly cannot continue responding frantically every spring when the North and East Basins fill up to capacity. That is not a viable management strategy. The basin waters may infiltrate eventually, but they are clearly having difficulty handling the spring melt volumes. With shifting global weather patterns accentuating extreme weather events, I don't see this situation getting much better in the future. I think it is time to discuss the installation of some sort of engineered emergency overflow system. Whether it is a simple rip-rapped apron or some sort of culvert, we need something in place to prevent overtopping of the sidewalls in these intense events.

We'll discuss this some more after things have quieted down this Spring.

Thanks all!

Philip Fauble, P.G.
Mining & Beneficial Reuse Program Coordinator Bureau of Waste & Materials Management Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
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-----Original Message-----

From: Kozicki, Sharon V F [mailto:Sharon.Kozicki@Foth.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2013 1:35 PM
To: Fauble, Philip N - DNR
Cc: Kleist, Jon J - DNR; jana-murphy@clearwire.net; Moore, Bruce A - DNR; Aartila, Tom P - DNR; Heilman, Cheryl W - DNR; Correll, Megan E - DNR; Larson, Nancy J - DNR; Stephen Donohue; Summers, Keith J; Dave Cline; Parins, Greg; Nimmer, Mike
Subject: Re: Infiltration Basins at the Flambeau Mine Site

Hello,

Our contractor, Olynick, will be out by tomorrow to pump the basins down.

I will notify everyone when this has been completed.

Thanks,
Sharon

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 11, 2013, at 10:49 AM, "Fauble, Philip N - DNR" <Philip.Fauble@Wisconsin.gov> wrote:

> Sharon,
>

> Yes, the priority is not to let these basins overtop. Pumping out to the mine site for infiltration as approved last year is fine.

>
>

> Philip Fauble, P.G.

> Mining & Beneficial Reuse Program Coordinator Bureau of Waste &
> Materials Management Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Kozicki, Sharon V F [mailto:Sharon.Kozicki@Foth.com]

> Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2013 10:17 AM

> To: Kleist, Jon J - DNR

> Cc: jana-murphy@clearwire.net; Moore, Bruce A - DNR; Fauble, Philip N

> - DNR; Aartila, Tom P - DNR; Heilman, Cheryl W - DNR; Correll, Megan E

> - DNR; Larson, Nancy J - DNR; Stephen Donohue; Summers, Keith J; Dave

> Cline; Parins, Greg; Nimmer, Mike

> Subject: Re: Infiltration Basins at the Flambeau Mine Site

>

> Thank you for the information, Jon. Are the basins still ice covered? I am in touch with our engineers.

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> Phil, do we have a green light to handle this the same as last year by pumping them out to the north?

>

> Thanks,

> Sharon

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On Apr 11, 2013, at 9:35 AM, "Kleist, Jon J - DNR" <Jon.Kleist@Wisconsin.gov> wrote:

>

>> Hi Jana and Sharon, I just left voice mail messages for both of you and thought I needed follow up with an email. I was in Ladysmith on the 9th and noticed that east and north infiltration basins were very full of water. I did not stop and read the staff gage, but estimated there was maybe a foot or a little less of freeboard before the basins would overtop. One of the staff at the Ladysmith office called me this morning and noted that there was maybe 6 inches of freeboard left before the basins overtop. There is snow and rain predicted for that area today. I thought you needed to be aware of this and should consider taking the necessary actions.

>>

>> Jon

>>

>> * Jon Kleist

>> Water Quality Biologist

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