

SECTION 14 INCIDENT REPORT (*Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*)

Date and Time of Notification:	Monday 10 th June 2019, 5:16pm
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (PWC)
Incident:	Discharge of raw sewage from sewerage network (Internal Floor waste (IFW))

<p>(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution</p>	<p><i>i. Description of the waste that was discharged.</i></p> <p>Raw sewage (no gross pollutants).</p> <p><i>ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.</i></p> <p>Indicative wastewater quality for this overflow can be found in Table 1. Rainfall leading up to the overflow was 0.0mm for the previous 14 days, therefore raw sewage is believed to have overflowed from the Internal Floor waste site – this is reflected as Average Dry Weather Flows (ADWF) in Table 1 below.</p> <p>Table 1: Inflow to Ludmilla Wastewater Treatment Plant</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Inflow volume</th> <th>median inflow kL</th> <th>median E coli</th> <th>90th percentile inflow kL</th> <th>90th percentile E coli</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>below ADWF</td> <td>11,040</td> <td>11,199,000</td> <td>12,925</td> <td>15,531,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>>ADWF (approx. 14.5 L/day)</td> <td>15,274</td> <td>9,804,000</td> <td>22,206</td> <td>17,148,300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>>2xADWF (approx.. 29 ML/day)</td> <td>31,673</td> <td>4,884,000</td> <td>37,166</td> <td>14,385,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>>3xADWF approx. 43.5 L/day)</td> <td>43,629</td> <td>4,611,000</td> <td>50,506</td> <td>12,843,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>>5xADWF (approx. 72.5 L/day)</td> <td>71,558</td> <td>5,002,000</td> <td>78,578</td> <td>5,905,200</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(ADWF= Average Dry Weather Flow) 90th percentile inflow: Protection of aquatic food for human consumption</p> <p><i>iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.</i></p> <p>The volume of waste discharged was approx. 20 litres, however the exact amount is unknown. No telemetric monitoring occurs at Internal Floor waste sites.</p> <p>Internal Floor waste (IFW) sites act as an ‘indoor’ Overflow Relief Gully. Building codes stipulate that ‘outdoor’ Overflow Relief Gullies (ORG’s) are to be installed to minimise public health risk during sewer overflows, however this building does not appear to be built to code. The occupants were made aware of this and are responsible to take this up with the building owners to remediate.</p> <p>This blockage was notified to PWC as a sewer overflow. PWC responded to the call and noticed the IFW site was overflowing. The start time of the overflow is unknown and there is no metered data available for IFW sites to determine a volume of the overflow.</p>	Inflow volume	median inflow kL	median E coli	90th percentile inflow kL	90th percentile E coli	below ADWF	11,040	11,199,000	12,925	15,531,000	>ADWF (approx. 14.5 L/day)	15,274	9,804,000	22,206	17,148,300	>2xADWF (approx.. 29 ML/day)	31,673	4,884,000	37,166	14,385,600	>3xADWF approx. 43.5 L/day)	43,629	4,611,000	50,506	12,843,600	>5xADWF (approx. 72.5 L/day)	71,558	5,002,000	78,578	5,905,200
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	<p>The overflow was resolved shortly after attendance to the site by PWC officers.</p> <p>Discharge of raw sewage to the bathroom where the IFW site was located, was associated with a blockage in the main sewer line. Upon clearing it was determined that the blockage was due to a build-up of rags, wet wipes and other foreign objects that have been incorrectly disposed into the sewer network by customers.</p>
<p>(b) the place where the incident occurred</p>	<p>29 Woods St, Darwin City – Internal Floor waste (IFW)</p> <p><i>i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>Internal Floor waste (IFW) located at 29 Woods St, Darwin City – as per map below.</p> <p><i>ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point.</i></p> <p>Discharge Point: 130.844239, -12.461931 Final Discharge Point: 130.844239, -12.461931</p> <p><i>iii. Indicate any locations nearby to the discharge point where public can gain ready-access, such as public open spaces through which the discharge moves.</i></p> <p>Public access is restricted to occupants of a business located on the ground floor of 29 Woods St. The area impacted by the discharge is a bathroom of a private business, preventing access by the general public. The bathroom was checked for gross pollutants of which none were visible, due to the IFW lid trapping them within the sewer system. Clean up was undertaken as per Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction.</p>
<p>(c) the date and time of the incident</p>	<p><i>i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.</i></p> <p>The commencement time of the overflow is unknown but believed to be approx. 10:30am 10/06/19. The overflow was observed at approximately 11:30am on 10/05/19 and was stopped shortly after (approx. 11:30am 10/05/19).</p> <p><i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i></p> <p>PWC were notified by a member of the public through the call centre at approximately 10:30am of a sewer overflow, this was then reported to the on call PWC staff member who attended the site at approx. 11:30am. From this PWC resolved the overflow and cleaned the area.</p> <p><i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>Rags, wet wipes and other foreign objects had been incorrectly disposed of into the sewer network by customers, resulting in the blockage and the overflow.</p> <p>Disposal of incorrect items down the toilet or sink can lead to the sewage overflows into the environment, households and businesses.</p> <p><i>iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.</i></p>

	<p>As per (c) iii. Sewerage network infrastructure is designed to overflow with the best public health and environmental outcomes possible. Design focuses on not overflowing directly inside houses; rather discharge is designed to occur in a controlled manner at locations which can be accessed for infrastructure repair and clean up and with minimal public health or environmental impacts.</p> <p>Internal Floor waste (IFW) sites act as an 'indoor' Overflow Relief Gully. Building codes stipulate that 'outdoor' Overflow Relief Gullies (ORG's) are to be installed to minimise public health risk during sewer overflows, however this building does not appear to be built to code. The occupants were made aware of this and are responsible to take this up with the building owners to remediate.</p>
(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur	As per (c) iii & (c) iv.
(e) the attempts made to prevent, reduce, control, rectify or clean up the pollution or resultant environmental harm caused or threatening to be caused by the incident	<p>The foreign body build up was cleared and the overflow was stopped. Clean up undertaken as per Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction.</p> <p><i>i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.</i></p> <p>The site is restricted to occupants of the private business and access is not available to the public. Due to the location (bathroom) fencing was not appropriate or required. Signage was also not installed, rather the occupants were made aware of the situation and the area cleaned.</p> <p><i>ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.</i></p> <p>Clean up consistent with Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction as appropriate to the location, and to minimise risk to the environment.</p> <p>Public education about what can be disposed in sewer/is flushable: https://www.powerwater.com.au/about/what-we-do/wastewater/sewer-blockages-and-overflows In the aim of prevention this material is available on the PWC website and is used as an educational tool for customers.</p>
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	PWC Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services

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