

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Wednesday 23 rd November 2022, 16:00hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (PWC)
Incident:	Discharge of fully treated effluent from Amanbidji wastewater stabilisation ponds.

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	<i>i. Description of the waste that was discharged.</i> Fully treated effluent. <i>ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.</i> There is no recent wastewater quality data available from Amanbidji or any of the surrounding communities, as none have a waste discharge licence, due to all effluent typically being evaporated or irrigated and hence no monitoring occurs. <i>iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.</i> The volume of wastewater discharged is unknown. No telemetric monitoring occurs at the site of discharge.
(b) the place where the incident occurred	<i>i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.</i> Amanbidji wastewater stabilisation ponds, pond number 5, final evaporation pond. <i>ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point.</i> Discharge Point: 129.6192143E, 16.4184309S (fence line at lowest part of evaporation pond #5) Final Discharge Point: 129.6183386E, 16.4164512S (approximate final discharge point) Discharge occurred from the lowest point at pond number five, which is the evaporation pond, and will therefore have passed through the previous four treatment ponds. <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>

	Access by the public to the spill location is not possible, as it is located on a fully fenced cattle station. The owner of the cattle station is aware of the overflow and is keeping his staff away.
(c) the date and time of the incident	<p><i>i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.</i></p> <p>The timing of the overflow is unknown. The Katherine Field Supervisor first noticed that the ponds were overflowing during a recent routine site visit. It is believed that the ponds have been overflowing for an extended period of time and still are at the time of reporting.</p> <p><i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i></p> <p>The Katherine Field Supervisor found that the ponds were overflowing to the environment, outside the compound's fence line, during a routine site visit of the community.</p> <p><i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>The exact cause of the overflow is unknown, with a number of potential contributing factors being investigated. One possibility is increased recent rainfall in the region has inundated the ponds, beyond design capacity; evidence pointing to this is the flood warning for the Victoria River on the BOM website 23/11/2022. Community water usage figures including those from leaks is also being investigated.</p> <p><i>iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>As per (c) iii,</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><i>i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.</i></p> <p>No signage will be erected in this instance, as the spill is contained on a cattle station that is full fenced, significantly reducing the likelihood of contact by members of the public</p> <p><i>ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.</i></p> <p>Site was inspected for any wastewater gross pollutants, of which none were observed.</p>
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	PWC Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services

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Appendix A – Location Map with co-ordinates of discharge point and approximate final discharge location.



Appendix B – Location Photograph

