

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Tuesday 05 March 2019 (reference: D2019/116734)
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation.
Incident:	Overflow of sewage resulting from a blockage within the sewerage mains system.
(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	<p>An overflow of untreated sewage has occurred from the collection manhole upstream from Sewer Pump Station (SPS) 1 at Maningrida.</p> <p>A blockage between the manhole and the pump station has resulted in no sewage reaching the pump station. As a result sewage backed up in the sewerage system and then flowed out of an overflow pipe to the ocean.</p> <p>It is believed the overflow occurred between 10.00 AM Monday 4th March to 11.10 AM 5th March.</p> <p>PWC Technical Co-ordinator received an alarm from the SPS at 11.02 AM advising that the pumps had not run for an extended period. Technical Co-ordinator contacted the Essential Services Operator (ESO) who cleared the blockage.</p>
(b) the place where the incident occurred	Near Maningrida SPS 1, see map attached.
(c) the date and time of the incident	10.00 AM Monday 4th March to 11.10 AM Tuesday 5th March.
(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur	<p>This incident has occurred due to a piece of material being placed down an overflow relief pipe at a residential property within the community, blocking sewage flow through the system.</p> <p>The blockage has prevented the pumps at SPS 1 working. The system overflows via an overflow pipe discharging into the Liverpool River. The overflow pipe discharges effluent for SPS 1 approximately 172m off shore.</p> <p>The incident occurred during low tide. The point of discharge was above tidal level, and could be visually</p>

	<p>inspected. Sewage discharging from the overflow pipe onto the beach was clear. No gross pollutants or solids were observed. A collection chamber is located prior to the overflow relief valve, which removes solids from the sewage before entering the overflow pipe.</p> <p>It is considered that significant flushing within the area has occurred following the next high tide on the beach.</p> <p>Based on historic flows it is estimated that the overflow from SPS1 was 171kL.</p> <p>This is the estimated overflow volume, however PWC predict that not all sewage has reached the overflow pipe. There are 3 sections of the sewage system that are designed to have storage capacity prior to the overflow valve. Some of the sewage may be stored in these areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pre-storage tank before SPS • SPS pit / collection chamber • Sewage backs up into mains before overflow occurs
<p>(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>	<p>Prevention/reduction: ESO completes daily check for blockages at SPS. High water alarm is installed at SPS 1.</p> <p>Rectify: Sewage Pumping Stations were brought back into operation as soon as ESO became aware of blockage at 11 am on Tuesday.</p> <p>Control: ESO reported that no solid matter / paper overflow / was evident. Collection chamber collects solids prior to overflow valve.</p> <p>Clean-up: ESO inspected area but observed no gross pollutants on beach. Signage has been erected.</p> <p>The period that pumps have not operated has been reduced. If another blockage occurs alarm will be raised earlier reducing overflow volume.</p>
<p>(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA</p>	<p>Laura Haycock on behalf Power and Water Corporations Remote Water Services.</p>

Map:



Photo: SPS1 overflow pipe on beach at Maningrida 05/03/2019

