

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

<b>Date and Time of Notification:</b>	9/2/21 at 7:30am
<b>Person / Company:</b>	Alix Betts - Sodexo (Property Manager for Rio Tinto Accommodation in Nhulunbuy).
<b>Incident:</b>	Overflow of sewage into three houses in Nhulunbuy.
<b>(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution</b>	Sewage flooding three houses and discharging into the backyards of the identified properties. No alarms from the SCADA control system managing sewer pit levels.
<b>(b) the place where the incident occurred</b>	14, 16 & 18 Beagle Circuit, Nhulunbuy & Hagney Park Sewage Pumping Station.
<b>(c) the date and time of the incident</b>	9/2/21 at approximately 7:00am.
<b>(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur</b>	The level control for the Hagney Park Sewage Pump Station failed and was outputting a pit level of 13%. The SCADA control system did not recognise this as a level to commence the pumps therefore the pit filled to a level where it caused a back-up of sewage into a discharge line causing the sewage to overflow into the houses.

<p><b>(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</b></p>	<p>Nhulunbuy Corporation and other contract personnel responded immediately to the situation. Nhulunbuy Corporation dispatched its Vacuum Truck to commence recovering of the waste. Additionally, the Sewer Pump Station was checked, and the pit level was found to be very high with no pumps running. The pumps were immediately started in manual and the issue was immediately controlled.</p> <p>An operator was posted to manually run the pumps until an electrician could fault find the system and correct the faulty transducer.</p> <p>Actions to manage the system:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Within the SCADA systems have software that monitors the start/stop times of the sewer pumps and alarm when they have not run after a specified time.</li> <li>2. Investigate within the pit level transmitter the ability to notify the SCADA system if the pit level has not changed within a specified period (say 5 minutes).</li> <li>3. Ensure this system is implemented across all sewer pit pumping stations that have this control system.</li> </ol> <p>Two of the three houses had residents occupying them, the other house was a vacant property. The residents have been relocated to other accommodation in Nhulunbuy, and the houses and yards are being cleaned and disinfected.</p>
<p><b>(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA</b></p>	<p>Lance Thomas  Manager Strategic Infrastructure  Nhulunbuy Corporation</p>



Level Transducer

SCADA Control System - Sewer Pit Level & Level Transducer



Low Level (Pumps Stop)



High Level (Pumps Start)