

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Tuesday 3 rd January 2023, 15:20hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (PWC)
Incident:	Discharge of diluted raw sewage from Tennant Creek sewage infrastructure.

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	<p><i>i. Description of the waste that was discharged.</i></p> <p>Diluted raw sewage</p> <p><i>ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Table 1.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sample Date</th> <th>Location</th> <th>E. coli (MPN/100 mL)</th> <th>Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)</th> <th>Chemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)</th> <th>Total Dissolved Solids (from EC) (mg/L)</th> <th>Suspended Solids (mg/L)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5&8/12/2022</td> <td>INLET SEWER</td> <td>573,000</td> <td>23</td> <td>170</td> <td>950</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3&5/10/2022</td> <td>INLET SEWER</td> <td>2,359,000</td> <td>22</td> <td>100</td> <td>1,000</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5&6/09/2022</td> <td>INLET SEWER</td> <td>2,282,000</td> <td>19</td> <td>260</td> <td>480</td> <td>130</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.</i></p> <p>The volume of wastewater discharged is unknown. No telemetric monitoring occurs at the site of discharge.</p>	Sample Date	Location	E. coli (MPN/100 mL)	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Chemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Total Dissolved Solids (from EC) (mg/L)	Suspended Solids (mg/L)	5&8/12/2022	INLET SEWER	573,000	23	170	950	95	3&5/10/2022	INLET SEWER	2,359,000	22	100	1,000	60	5&6/09/2022	INLET SEWER	2,282,000	19	260	480	130
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(b) the place where the incident occurred	<p><i>i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>The wastewater stabilisation ponds inlet channel, to the Tennant Creek ponds.</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: 134.1739408E, 19.6697520S (co-ord. #1) Approx. Final Discharge Point: 134.1738538E, 19.6696619S (co-ord. #2)</p> <p>Discharge occurred from the open but grated inlet channel going into pond number one at the Tennant Creek wastewater stabilisation ponds.</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>Access by the public to the spill location is possible, as it ended up flowing into other pooling stormwater along the outside of the ponds perimeter fence, along a vehicle track. A visual barrier in the form of witches hats and warning signage has been erected in prominent and appropriate locations.</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 exact timing of the overflow is unknown, but would have started in the early hours of 29/12/2022. The overflow ceased around 07:40hrs 29/12/2022, when the systems pressure was relieved by diverting some of the flow.</p> <p><i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i></p> <p>The Tennant Creek Systems Coordinator observed the overflow during a routine inspection of the ponds, and discovered the overflow at the incoming channel near the macerators. The Water and Sewer Technician was advised as was management. Environmental Services only became aware of the event 03/01/2023.</p> <p><i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>The overflow was a result of a combination of debris stuck in the inflow channel at the macerators and the large amount of inflow and infiltration into the sewerage system during a high rainfall event experienced during the morning of the 29/12/2022.</p> <p><i>iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>As per (c) iii, The capacity of the partially blocked flume was temporarily exceeded by a combination of inflows and infiltration caused by heavy rains on the morning of the 29/12/2022.</p>
<p>(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur</p>	<p>As per (c) iii & (c) iv.</p>
<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><i>i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.</i></p> <p>The vehicle access track will have witches hats placed at key access points, and Power and Water sewage warning signage will be erected along the fence line.</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. Site was inspected for any wastewater gross pollutants, of which some was collected at the point of discharge and down the embankment.</p>
<p>(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA</p>	<p>PWC Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services</p>

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



Appendix B – Location Photographs – macerators at inflow channel and where overflow occurred down embankment.



Appendix C – Location Photographs – Warning signage displayed along the perimeter fence



