

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Wednesday 25 th October 2023, 10:30hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation
Incident:	Discharge of sewage from sewerage network – Sewage Pumping Station

<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</p> <p><i>ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.</i></p> <p>There was no wastewater quality data available for the Umbakumba ponds inlet. The most representative data available is from the nearby Angurugu community waste stabilisation ponds inlet. See below for indicative wastewater quality data.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="598 1176 1473 1317"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Sample Date</th> <th rowspan="2">Description</th> <th colspan="4">Physical and General Chemical</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)</th> <th>Nitrate + Nitrite as N (NOx-N) (mg/L)</th> <th>pH (lab) (pH units)</th> <th>Phosphorus - Total (mg/L)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5/04/2023</td> <td>Angu Pond 1 Inlet</td> <td>48.0</td> <td><0.1</td> <td>6.8</td> <td>2.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11/01/2023</td> <td>Angu Pond 1 Inlet</td> <td>11.0</td> <td><0.1</td> <td>7.12</td> <td>2.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21/09/2022</td> <td>Angu Pond 1 Inlet</td> <td>39.0</td> <td><0.1</td> <td>7.04</td> <td>2.8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.</i></p> <p>The volume of waste discharged is unknown. No telemetric monitoring occurs at this location. An estimate from the plumber was 200 kilolitres, of which some would have been recovered by vacuum truck.</p>	Sample Date	Description	Physical and General Chemical				Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Nitrate + Nitrite as N (NOx-N) (mg/L)	pH (lab) (pH units)	Phosphorus - Total (mg/L)	5/04/2023	Angu Pond 1 Inlet	48.0	<0.1	6.8	2.4	11/01/2023	Angu Pond 1 Inlet	11.0	<0.1	7.12	2.0	21/09/2022	Angu Pond 1 Inlet	39.0	<0.1	7.04	2.8
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<p>(b) the place where the incident occurred</p>	<p><i>i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>The overflow emanated from the number one sewage pumping station, Umbakumba.</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: 136.8133910E, 13.8577775S (sewage pumping station #1) Final discharge point: 136.8137138E, 13.8575820S (adjacent creekline)</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 to the public was possible for a 26 meter section between the sewage pump station and the nearby creek. However the local Utility Service Contract Worker (USCW) followed by a contractor from the vacuum truck company were at the scene and would advise passers-by to keep away and advise them of the dangers.</p>
(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 commencement time of the spill is unknown, but was first observed by the USCW at 06:10hrs 24/10/2023. The spill could not be stopped by the USC worker, therefore a vacuum truck was sent to the scene to recover what was possible and collect any further incoming sewage and dispose of at the wastewater stabilisation ponds. As the USCW could not rectify the issue on his own, plumbers were contracted and the Power & Water Technical Coordinator also flew to the island to assist. Time blockage was rectified and spill ceased was around 10:30hrs 26/10/2023.</p> <p><i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i></p> <p>The spill was initially reported to the Power and Water Technical Co-ordinator responsible for the community by the Utility Service Contract worker undertaking his routine work.</p> <p><i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>The overflow occurred due to a blockage of a temporary sewage pumping station's discharge pipeline, which runs to the wastewater stabilisation ponds. The blockage was caused by foreign objects disposed of into the sewerage system; these frequently include mop heads, clothing and bedding sheets, which is common in remote communities.</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	<p>As per (c) iii & (c) iv.</p> <p>A large portion of the spill that could not be recovered by vacuum truck did end up entering the nearby creek. This creek is a tidal creek, with no freshwater flows. There was no obvious signs of any adverse effects caused by the spill. There was a high tidal coefficient on the day of the spill and subsequent days (1.81m high & 0.58m low on the 24/10/23).</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><i>i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.</i></p> <p>As the USC worker and/or another Power and Water contracted company was on the scene most of the time since the spill was first observed, making it unlikely that any member of the community came in contact with the spill; hence fencing was not required in this instance..</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>
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	<p>Power and Water's Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services</p>

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Appendix A – Location map.



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