

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

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| Date and Time of Notification: | Thursday 7 th March 2024, 16:00hrs |
| Person / Company: | Power and Water Corporation (PWC) |
| Incident: | Discharge of highly diluted sewage effluent from the Yuendumu wastewater stabilisation ponds |

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| <p>(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution</p> | <p><i>i. Description of the waste that was discharged.</i></p> <p>Highly diluted and fully treated wastewater (had overflowed from the last or 7th treatment pond)</p> <p><i>ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.</i></p> <p>No representative or recent wastewater quality results are available, as the effluent was highly diluted and because this community's facility does not have a waste discharge licence, hence wastewater quality monitoring does not occur on a regular basis.</p> <p><i>iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.</i></p> <p>The volume of wastewater discharged is unknown, it is estimated though to be around 160 kilolitres.</p> |
| <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>Yuendumu wastewater stabilisation 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 1: 131.8011133E, 22.2445769S (pond 7 wall) Final Discharge Point: 131.8014771E, 22.2442583S (approximate final discharge point)</p> <p>Discharge occurred from the lowest point of the final treatment pond, meaning it was fully treated effluent.</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 is possible, however the access track around the wastewater stabilisation ponds (WWSP) facility has been blocked off at both ends of where the spill area is, with temporary fencing, see appendix B.</p> |

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| <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 timing of the overflow is unknown. The Utility Contract Service Worker, responsible for this community advised the Alice Springs Power & Water Technical Co-ordinator at around 09:55hrs 07/03/2024 of the spill and shortly after a diversion trench was dug to fully contain the spill within the facility's irrigation field.</p> <p><i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i></p> <p>The UCSW found that the ponds were overflowing, during a routine site inspection.</p> <p><i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>The cause of the overflow is a combination of ongoing technical issues with the irrigation system and the high amount of recent rainfall received. Investigations are ongoing to determine the cause of the loss of flow to the pumping system.</p> <p><i>iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>As per (c) iii,</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>Barricading has been erected at both ends of the access track surrounding the facility where the pooling effluent is, to prevent or reduce the possibility of the public making contact with the spill.</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 none were observed.</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, showing the access track around the facility blocked off to prevent access to the spill site



Source: Power & Water contractor – Yuendumu Utility Services Contract worker.