

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Friday 18 th October 2019, 14:35pm
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (PWC)
Incident:	Discharge of raw sewage from sewerage network (suspected ruptured rising main)

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution

i. Description of the waste that was discharged.

Raw sewage (no gross pollutants).

ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.

Indicative wastewater quality for this overflow can be found in Table 1. Rainfall leading up to the overflow was 0.0mm for the previous 7 days (Darwin Airport Weather Station – 014015), therefore raw sewage is believed to have overflowed from the rising main – this is reflected as Average Dry Weather Flows (ADWF) in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Inflow to Ludmilla Wastewater Treatment Plant

Inflow volume	median inflow kL	median E coli	90th percentile inflow kL	90th percentile E coli
below ADWF	11,040	11,199,000	12,925	15,531,000
>ADWF (approx. 14.5 L/day)	15,274	9,804,000	22,206	17,148,300
>2xADWF (approx 29 ML/day)	31,673	4,884,000	37,166	14,385,600
>3xADWF approx. 43.5 L/day)	43,629	4,611,000	50,506	12,843,600
>5xADWF (approx. 72.5 L/day)	71,558	5,002,000	78,578	5,905,200

(ADWF= Average Dry Weather Flow) 90th percentile inflow: Protection of aquatic food for human consumption

iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.

The volume of waste discharged is unknown. No telemetric monitoring occurs at the site of discharge. PWC operations estimate 2kL overflowed.

This overflow was notified to PWC call centre, from which PWC operations staff responded to the call and noticed an overflow from a suspected ruptured rising. The start time of the overflow is unknown and there is no metered data available to determine an accurate volume of the overflow.

Discharge of raw sewage to the land is currently under investigation. When excavated, and the Sewer Pump Station (SPS) pumps run to find the suspected burst, no evidence of burst could be found. Fenced area and checked in morning with SPS on auto. Still no evidence of leakage – Still under investigation.

(b) the place where the incident occurred	Corner of Lakeside Drive and Trower Road, Alawa – Suspected Ruptured Rising Main		
	i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.		
	Rising main located at Corner of Lakeside Drive and Trower Road, Alawa – as per map below.		
	ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point.		
	Discharge Point: 130.868687, -12.383957 Final Discharge Point: 130.868687, -12.383957		
	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.		
	Access was possible by the public, however the area impacted by the discharge on land has been fenced off, preventing access. The area was checked for gross pollutants of which none were visible, due to the overflow seeping through the ground to the surface. Clean up was undertaken as per Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction.		
	The wastewater pooled on the land beside the main alignment, and did not enter stormwater or any nearby surface water.		
(c) the date and time of the incident	i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.		
	The commencement time of the overflow is unknown. The overflow was observed at approximately 15:00pm on 17/10/19 and the overflow could not be detected shortly after.		
	When excavated, and the SPS pumps run to find the suspected burst, no evidence of burst could be found. Fenced area and checked in morning with SPS on auto. Still no evidence of leakage – Still under investigation.		
	ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.		
	PWC call centre was notified of the overflow, this was then reported to the on call PWC staff who attended the site at approx. 15:00pm (17/10/19), and the overflow investigated and area cleaned shortly after.		
	iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.		
	Discharge of raw sewage to the land beside the rising main is still under investigation. The exact cause is currently unknown.		
	iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.		
	As per (c) iii.		
(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur	As per (c) iii		

(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

The overflow is currently under investigation and overflow appears to have now ceased. When the overflow area was excavated, and the SPS pumps run to find the suspected burst, no evidence of burst could be found. Fenced area and checked in morning with SPS on auto. Still no evidence of leakage – Still under investigation. Clean up undertaken as per Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction.

i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.

The site has been fenced off and warning signage installed to alert the public as per Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction (attached).

Fenced off area is approximately 15m x 15m.

ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.

Clean up consistent with Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction as appropriate to the location, and to minimise risk to the environment.

Site has been limed and will be followed up by removing approx. 100mm of top contaminated soil and replaced with topsoil.

(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA

PWC Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services



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