

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Monday 23 rd September 2019, 3:55pm
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (PWC)
Incident:	Discharge of raw sewage from sewerage network (Sewer Pump Station (SPS) Emergency Relief Point)

<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 (no gross pollutants).</p> <p><i>ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.</i></p> <p>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 (BOM – Weather Station 15590), therefore raw sewage is believed to have overflowed from the emergency relief point – this is reflected as Average Dry Weather Flows (ADWF) in Table 1 below.</p> <p>Table 1: Inflow to Ludmilla Wastewater Treatment Plant</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Inflow volume</th> <th>median inflow kL</th> <th>median E coli</th> <th>90th percentile inflow kL</th> <th>90th percentile E coli</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>below ADWF</td> <td>11,040</td> <td>11,199,000</td> <td>12,925</td> <td>15,531,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>>ADWF (approx. 14.5 L/day)</td> <td>15,274</td> <td>9,804,000</td> <td>22,206</td> <td>17,148,300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>>2xADWF (approx. 29 ML/day)</td> <td>31,673</td> <td>4,884,000</td> <td>37,166</td> <td>14,385,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>>3xADWF approx. 43.5 L/day)</td> <td>43,629</td> <td>4,611,000</td> <td>50,506</td> <td>12,843,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>>5xADWF (approx. 72.5 L/day)</td> <td>71,558</td> <td>5,002,000</td> <td>78,578</td> <td>5,905,200</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(ADWF= Average Dry Weather Flow) 90th percentile inflow: Protection of aquatic food for human consumption</p> <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 manholes. Operations staff have estimated the amount to be approx. 500 litres.</p> <p>This overflow was detected by PWC operations staff after receiving an alarm for the Old Timers SPS. Upon investigating the SPS it was identified that there was a blockage within the inlet chamber pipe, resulting in an overflow from the emergency relief point. There is no metered data available for the emergency relief point to determine an accurate volume of the overflow.</p> <p>Discharge of raw sewage to land was associated with a blockage within the inlet chamber pipe, resulting in the overflow. Upon clearing it was determined that the blockage was due to a build-up of rags, wet wipes and other foreign objects that have been incorrectly disposed into the</p>	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
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	sewer network by customers.
(b) the place where the incident occurred	<p>Lot 245, Stuart Highway (Old Timers Museum), Alice Springs – SPS Emergency Relief Point</p> <p><i>i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>Emergency Relief Point located at Lot 245, Stuart Highway (Old Timers Museum), Alice Springs – as per map below.</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: 133.870321, -23.741659 Final Discharge Point: 133.870713, -23.741621</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 via the public is possible due to the nearby walking track and dirt road. The area was checked for gross pollutants of which none were visible. Clean up was undertaken as per Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction.</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 overflow is unknown. The overflow was observed at approximately 11:00 am on 23/09/19 and was stopped at approximately 1:30pm (23/09/19).</p> <p><i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i></p> <p>This overflow was detected by PWC operations staff after receiving an alarm for the Old Timers SPS. Upon investigating the SPS it was identified that there was a blockage within the inlet chamber pipe, resulting in an overflow from the emergency relief point. The overflow was observed at approx. 11am (23/09/19) and resolved at approx. 1:30pm (23/09/19).</p> <p><i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>The overflow is the result of a blockage within the SPS inlet chamber pipe. Rags, wet wipes and other foreign objects had been incorrectly disposed of into the sewer network by customers, resulting in the blockage and the overflow. Disposal of incorrect items down the toilet or sink can lead to the sewage overflows into the environment, households and businesses.</p> <p><i>iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>As per (c) iii. Sewerage network infrastructure has been designed to overflow with the best public health and environmental outcomes possible. Design focuses on not overflowing directly inside houses; rather discharge is designed to occur in a controlled manner at locations which can be accessed for infrastructure repair and clean up and with minimal public health or environmental impacts.</p>
(d) how the pollution has	

occurred, is occurring or may occur	As per (c) iii & (c) iv.
(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>The foreign body build up was cleared and the overflow was stopped. Clean up undertaken as per Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction.</p> <p><i>i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.</i></p> <p>The site was fenced off and signage was installed to alert the public as per Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction (attached).</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> <p>Public education about what can be disposed in sewer/is flushable: https://www.powerwater.com.au/about/what-we-do/wastewater/sewer-blockages-and-overflows In the aim of prevention this material is available on the PWC website and is used as an educational tool for customers.</p>
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	PWC Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services

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