ntepa Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Tuesday 5th February 2019, 12:06 pm
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (PWC)
Incident:	Overflow of highly diluted sewage from a manhole into a nearby stormwater drain.
(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	A wet weather/ monsoonal event has inundated the sewer system with stormwater run-off resulting in an overflow from a manhole. Wastewater from the manhole has then entered the stormwater network via an entry pit. Overflows from manholes occur when the pump capacity at nearby Sewerage Pump Station(s) (SPS) is exceeded, which results in the manhole surcharging. Volume: Unknown – No telemetric monitoring occurs at manholes. The overflow id expected to have occurred intermittently during periods of heavy rainfall. The sewerage catchments consist mainly of residential dwellings, it would be expected that the waste would be faecal matter and associated gross pollutants (earbuds, tissues, rags, sanitary items etc.). As the incident occurred as a result of a rainfall event, the waste material would be highly diluted as a result of stormwater inflow and infiltration. No sampling of the discharge water occurred at the time of the overflow. PWC has engaged CDU to undertake wet weather overflow water quality study. Due to the poor wet season currently being experience the results of the study are unlikely to be received by PWC until the end of the year (2019/2020 wet season). The aim of this project is to describe the quality

	of wastewater at both the discharge point and further downstream "source tracking".

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(b) the place where the incident occurred	Manhole outside 5 Roberts Place, Milner, (refer to attachment 1) Final discharge location: Unknown.
(c) the date and time of the incident	Overflow was identified on Monday February 4, 2019. There is no telemetric monitoring of manholes, PWC operations staff identified this overflow during an inspection of the site. This manhole is located within the Rapid Creek catchment, which experiences significant stormwater ingress and inflow, this manhole is known to overflow during wet weather/ monsoonal event. Start time: Monday 04/02/2019, time unknown Stop time: Monday 04/02/2019, time unknown
(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur	A wet weather/ monsoonal event has inundated the sewer system with stormwater run-off resulting in an overflow to an adjacent manhole. Overflows from manholes occur when the pump capacity at nearby Sewerage Pump Station(s) (SPS) is exceeded, which results in the manhole surcharging. Surcharging from the manhole stops when there is a reduction in catchment rainfall levels.
(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur	A wet weather/ monsoonal event has inundated the sewer system with stormwater run-off resulting in an overflow to an adjacent stormwater pit. Sewage surcharged from the manhole into a nearby stormwater entry pit. No gross pollutants or solids were observed. The overflow vol. is unknown as there is no telemetric monitoring of manholes. Wastewater

	entered a nearby stormwater entry pit, therefore preventing PWC operations staff from obtaining an estimated area of coverage. Prior to an overflow occurring, there are 3 sections of the sewage system that are designed to have storage capacity prior to the overflow occurring, these include: • SPS wet-wells • Diverting flows between the Rapid Creek and Lakeside Drive SPS. • Sewage backs up into mains before overflow occurs

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(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	**Prevent:** This manhole is located within the Rapid Creek catchment. In this catchment, PWC has undertaken visual inspections to identify/ ensure the following: • Overflow Relief Gullies (ORGs) are at the correct height • Stormwater downpipes are connected to stormwater and not the sewerage system • Camera inspections of the sewer network to check the general condition of the pipes and connection points To-date approximately 90% of residents within the catchment has been inspected. Due to the poor wet season PWC is unable to determine if this project has resulted in a measurable decrease in overflow events. Phase 2 of this project (early planning stage) is to smoke test the sewer system to identify illegal entry points to the sewer network. Where possible, inflow is diverted between the Rapid Creek and Lakeside Drive SPSs to try and avoid surcharges within the network. During this overflow both SPSs were overflowing. PWC is currently in the planning phase to increase the size of the sewer main connecting the Rapid Creek and Lakeside Drive SPSs. Once this new main is operational, overflows within the network and at both SPS are expected to decrease in frequency and volume. **Rectify:** Incident rectification based on reduction in catchment rainfall levels. Overflows will cease when volumes in the system reduce. **Control:** Crews monitoring site to manage

	overflow pathway and collect any solid material (No gross pollutants were observed). Public signage in place. **Clean-up:** ongoing site monitoring for and clean-up of gross pollutants (giving considerations to weather conditions). No gross pollutants were observed.
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	Laura Haycock on behalf of Water Services, Power and Water Corporation.

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Attachment 1: Site map