

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Monday 17 th June 2019, 11:18am
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (PWC)
Incident:	Discharge of raw sewage from sewerage network (Internal Floor waste (IFW))

<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 has been calculated from recent wastewater quality sampling results. Rainfall leading up to the overflow was 0.0mm for the previous 14 days (Weather Station 015590), therefore raw sewage is believed to have overflowed from the Internal Floor waste site. Based on wastewater quality sampling of raw sewage inflow to Alice Springs ponds, during the month of May 2019, on average 16,680,000 E.coli were detected per 100ml of wastewater. Similar wastewater quality is expected to have overflowed at 98 Dixon Road.</p> <p><i>iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.</i></p> <p>The volume of waste discharged is believed to be approx. <1kL, however an exact volume is unknown. No telemetric monitoring occurs at Internal Floor waste sites.</p> <p>Internal Floor waste (IFW) sites act as an 'indoor' Overflow Relief Gully. Building codes stipulate that 'outdoor' Overflow Relief Gullies (ORG's) are to be installed to minimise public health risk during sewer overflows. This residence had an ORG in place, however is not built to code. The ORG has been installed at a height above the internal drain heights, rendering the ORG useless. The occupants were made aware of this and are responsible to remediate.</p> <p>This event was notified to PWC as a sewer overflow. PWC responded to the call and noticed the IFW site was overflowing. The start time of the overflow was approximately 19:30pm on Friday 14th June 2019. There is no metered data available for IFW sites to determine a volume of the overflow, however is believed to be <1kL.</p> <p>The overflow was stopped shortly after attendance to the site by PWC officers.</p> <p>Discharge of raw sewage to the household where the IFW site was</p>
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	<p>located, was associated with a blockage in the main sewer line. 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 sewer network by customers.</p>
<p>(b) the place where the incident occurred</p>	<p>98 Dixon Road, Alice Springs – Internal Floor waste (IFW)</p> <p><i>i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>Internal Floor waste (IFW) located at 98 Dixon Road, 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: 133.863584, -23.675640 Final Discharge Point: 133.863584, -23.675640</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>Public access is restricted to residents of the 98 Dixon Road household. The area impacted by the discharge is a bathroom and other rooms inside the household, preventing access by the general public. The household was checked for gross pollutants of which none were visible, due to the IFW lid/grate trapping them within the sewer system. Clean up was undertaken as per Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction.</p>
<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 commencement time of the overflow was approximately 19:30pm on Friday 14th June 2019. The overflow was observed at approximately 20:30am on 14/05/19 and was stopped at approx. 23:30pm 14/05/19.</p> <p><i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i></p> <p>PWC were notified by the resident of 98 Dixon Road through the call centre at approximately 19:30pm of a sewer overflow, this was then reported to the on call PWC staff member who attended the site at approx. 20:30pm. From this PWC resolved the overflow and cleaned the area.</p> <p><i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 is 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</p>

	<p>can be accessed for infrastructure repair and clean up and with minimal public health or environmental impacts.</p> <p>Internal Floor waste (IFW) sites act as an 'indoor' Overflow Relief Gully. Building codes stipulate that 'outdoor' Overflow Relief Gullies (ORG's) are to be installed to minimise public health risk during sewer overflows. This residence had an ORG present; however it had not been installed to code. The occupants were made aware of this and are responsible to remediate.</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 is restricted to residents of the 98 Dixon Road household and access is not available to the public. Due to the location (inside household) fencing was not appropriate or required. Signage was also not installed, rather the occupants were made aware of the situation and the area cleaned – and to be renovated (under insurance).</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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