Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Thursday 19th September 2019, 4:38pm
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (**PWC**)
Incident:	Discharge of raw sewage from sewerage network (underground emergency relief point directly into stormwater pit)

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution

i. Description of the waste that was discharged.

Raw sewage.

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 (BOM Weather Stn: 014015 – Darwin Airport), therefore raw sewage is believed to have overflowed from the manhole – 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 this emergency relief point.

This overflow was notified to PWC by the public who contacted the PWC call centre. PWC responded to the call and noticed the sub-surface emergency relief point was overflowing directly into a stormwater pit. The start time of the overflow is unknown and there is no metered data available for manholes to determine a volume of the overflow.

The overflow was resolved shortly after attendance to the site by PWC officers.

The cause of the overflow was due to a blockage within the main sewer line. The blockage was caused due to foreign bodies within the sewer

	main, such as building materials from construction works unrelated to Power and Water.
(b) the place where the incident occurred	34 Bagot Road, The Narrows – Emergency relief point *i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.* Emergency relief point located at 34 Bagot Road, The Narrows – 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: 130.856681, -12.424605 Final Discharge Point: 130.856705, -12.424478 *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 via the public is not possible as raw sewage overflowed from an emergency relief point directly into a stormwater pit – this connection is below the ground within the stormwater pit therefore minimal risk to public safety. Clean up was undertaken as per Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction.
(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 by PWC staff at approximately 3:30pm on 19/09/19 and was stopped at approximately 4:00pm (19/09/19). *ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.* PWC operations staff were notified by the PWC call centre who were informed of the overflow by the public. PWC staff attended the site at approx. 3:30pm 19/09/19 and observed the overflow. From this PWC staff resolved the overflow and cleaned the area. *iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.* The cause of the overflow was due to a blockage within the main sewer line. The blockage was caused due to foreign bodies within the sewer main, such as building materials from construction works unrelated to Power and Water. *iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.* 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.
(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or	As per (c) iii & (c) iv.

may occur	
(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 blockage was cleared, and the overflow was stopped. Clean up undertaken as per Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction. *i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.* The site was not fenced off and signage was not installed as the overflow was sub-surface and risk to public health is minimal. *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. Vacuum truck was used to remove the wastewater from the stormwater pit, followed by cleaning of the internal pit.
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	PWC Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services

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