Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

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

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| **Date and Time of Notification:** | Friday 03 May 2024, 17:25 hrs |
| **Person / Company:** | Power and Water Corporation |
| **Incident:** | Discharge of diluted sewage effluent from the sewerage network at Gapuwiyak community |

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| **(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution** | *i. Description of the waste that was discharged.*<br><br>A combination of grey and black wastewater.<br><br>*ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.*<br><br>Indicative wastewater quality for this overflow can be found in the table below.<br><br>*iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.*<br><br>The volume of wastewater discharged is unknown. |
| **(b) the place where the incident occurred** | *i. Description of the Power & Water asset from which the discharge occurred.*<br><br>150mm PVC rising sewer main<br><br>*ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the Power & Water asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point.*<br><br>Discharge Point 1: 135.8041611E, 12.5051608S (sewer main)<br>Final Discharge Point: 135.8041873E, 12.5055510S (approximate final discharge point)<br><br>Discharge occurred from a broken sewer rising main located to the west of No. 7 Djambarruyngu Street, Gapuwiyak (lot 60), underneath an unauthorised vehicle track.<br><br>*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.* |

| | | Bacteriological | Physical and General Chemical | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | E. coli | Nitrate + Nitrite as N (NOx) | pH (lab) | Phosphorus - Total |
| Sample Date | Description | (MPN/100 mL) | (NOx-N) (mg/L) | (pH units) | (mg/L) |
| 20/03/24 | WQ-GAPUWIYAK POND 1 INLET | 579400 | | | |
| 21/02/24 | WQ-GAPUWIYAK POND 1 INLET | 2419600 | 0.1 | 6.78 | 4.0 |

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| | Access by the public to the spill was possible, from the discharge location to the final discharge point in nearby bushland. The property is located at the community's furthest southwestern point with no real reason for anybody to go to the back of the property at lot 60. The area is used more as a throughfare for vehicles. The utility services contract (USC) worker did notify nearby residents of the hazard and not to come in contact with the spill. |
| **(c) the date and time of the incident** | *i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.*<br><br>The timing of the overflow is unknown. It was first reported to the Environmental Services team on Wednesday afternoon around 15:00hrs. The spill was reported to have been repaired at 18:29hrs 01/05/2024. Initial information received deemed it to not be a notifiable event, according to Power & Water's Sewer Overflow Reporting Matrix, however subsequent information proved otherwise hence it is only being reported now.<br><br>*ii. How Power & Water were notified or became aware of the discharge.*<br><br>The residents at lot 60 informed the Utility Services Contract worker, who informed Power and Water's Sewer Reticulation Coordinator responsible for the community.<br><br>*iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.*<br><br>The cause of the spill is continued vehicle traffic driving over the rising main, which caused it to eventually fail.<br><br>*iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.*<br><br>As per (c) iii Unauthorised vehicle traffic over the sewer rising main. |
| **(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur** | As per (c) iii & (c) iv. Power & Water's USC worker has previously installed star pickets and danger tape in the aim of preventing vehicles from using the vehicle track in area of the sewer main. Residents have also gone to the lengths of removing bollards along a nearby road to maintain access to the track, as can be seen in the location map highlighted by the yellow rectangle. |
| **(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** | *i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.*<br><br>Signage and fencing was not erected in this instance. Nearby residents were however notified of the spill by the USC worker and advised to avoid contact with the spill.<br><br>*ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.*<br><br>Clean up consistent with Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction as appropriate to the location, and to minimise risk to the Environment. Site inspected for any gross pollutants of which none were observed. |
| **(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA** | Power & Water's Environmental Services team on behalf of Water Services |

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Appendix A – Location Map with co-ordinates of discharge point and approximate final discharge location.