

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Thursday 12 th January 2023, 09:00hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation
Incident:	Discharge of sewage from sewerage network (Wastewater treatment Plant)

<p>(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution</p>	<p><i>i. Description of the waste that was discharged.</i></p> <p>Partially treated sewage</p> <p><i>ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.</i></p> <p>The sewage has been partially treated and more than likely diluted by the 84.4mm of rain that fell in the month of January 2023 (Noonamah airstrip ID 014314). It is currently not possible to provide wastewater quality data, however samples have been taken 11/01/2023 and results can be made available upon receipt from the laboratory.</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 the site of discharge.</p>
<p>(b) the place where the incident occurred</p>	<p><i>i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>The wastewater evapotranspiration beds at the Coolalinga wastewater treatment plant.</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><i>Approximate locations are as follows;</i></p> <p>Discharge Point: 131.0396091E, -12.5170772S (evapotranspiration beds) Final Discharge Point: 131.0398339E, -12.5169451S (bushland)</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 was possible to this spill location, however it is being cleaned up as per the Power and Water Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction. There are no gross pollutants (paper) present, as the wastewater has gone through the treatment plant. It should be noted that the treatment plant itself is a fully fenced area,</p>

	<p>however the overflow area external of the permanent fence will have temporary fencing and signage erected 11/01/2023 prevent any further access by the public.</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 is unknown. The overflow was observed at approximately 07:00hrs by Power and Water staff on 11/01/2023, and the spill was controlled by the afternoon of 11/01/2023.</p> <p><i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i></p> <p>This overflow was discovered by Power and Water staff conducting regular maintenance inspections. Power and Water's Environmental Services was made aware of the incident at 10:13hrs, 11/01/2023.</p> <p><i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>The cause of the overflow was due to saturated evapotranspiration beds. These beds were unable to cope with the increased volumes going through the plant as a result of increased inflow volumes caused by recent high rainfall volumes (84.4mm fell so far in the month of January 2023 at the nearest BOM weather recording station – Noonamah airstrip ID014314).</p> <p><i>iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>As per (c) iii. Wastewater tank volumes are insufficient for extended high rainfall periods. This site was taken on by Power and Water due to the previous private operator undergoing bankruptcy. The plant is poorly designed and Power and Water are managing the site while looking into long term options for improvement.</p> <p>The preferred long-term solution from an operational perspective is to install a sewage pumping station at the Coolalinga wastewater treatment plant and a rising main to the nearest existing sewage pumping station at Radford Road, Zuccoli. This is a lengthy process (approx. 5 years) to acquire the necessary land to install this rising main. In the interim Power and Water is operating this wastewater treatment plant as best as possible given the limited resources, options and within budget allocations.</p>
<p>(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur</p>	<p>As per (c) iii & (c) iv.</p>
<p>(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>	<p><i>i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.</i></p> <p>The treatment plant itself is a fully fenced area, The overflow area external of the permanent fence will have temporary fencing and signage erected 11/01/2023.</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. Pooling effluent is being removed via vacuum trucks and the area will be disinfected and thoroughly cleaned.</p>

<p>(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA</p>	<p>PWC Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services</p>
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Appendix A – Location map



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Coolalinga Wastewater Treatment Plant

11/01/2023

Appendix B – Photographs of the spill site



