

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

<b>Date and Time of Notification:</b>	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2021, 12:48hrs
<b>Person / Company:</b>	Power and Water Corporation ( <b>PWC</b> )
<b>Incident:</b>	Discharge of raw sewage from sewerage network (no gross pollutants)

<p><b>(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution</b></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>There is currently no wastewater quality data available for raw sewage from the Numbulwar community; a sample will however be taken on the 17<sup>th</sup> February, as part of the routine monitoring program. Results can be provided once received from the laboratory. Rainfall leading up to the overflow was 1.4mm for the previous 2 days (BOM Weather Stn: 014518 – Groote Eylandt Airport), therefore raw sewage has spilt as a result of the broken sewer rising main.</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. The area affected by the spill covered an area of approximately 20 square meters and pooled on the side of the road, it did not travel to any drainage lines.</p>
<p><b>(b) the place where the incident occurred</b></p>	<p><i>i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>150mm diameter PVC sewer rising main that runs between sewage pumping station #1 and the Numbulwar waste stabilisation ponds.</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>Approximate Discharge Point:        135.7373798E, 14.2811214S          Approximate final discharge point:    135.7372351E, 14.2811872S</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>The discharge occurred adjacent to the community access road, which the public has access to, however signage has been erected, to warn members of the community of the spill.</p>

<p><b>(c) the date and time of the incident</b></p>	<p><i>i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.</i> The commencement time of the spill is unknown. The spill was first observed around 08:00hrs on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 by the Essential Services Operator (ESO). The spill was stopped by temporarily turning off the sewage pumping station, excavating around the spill site and repairing the broken pipe. This work was completed around 12:30hrs 16/02/2021.</p> <p><i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i> The Essential Services Operator (ESO) noticed the spill on the side of the road on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and then notified the PWC Coordinator.</p> <p><i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i> The sewer rising main has deteriorated over time since installation, and under the pressure of the sewage pumping station, the pipe gave way.</p> <p><i>iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.</i> As per (c) iii. The age of the infrastructure has caused the PVC pipework to become brittle, and with the additional pressure of the sewage pumping station #1, has caused the pipework to fail.</p>
<p><b>(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur</b></p>	<p>As per (c) iii &amp; (c) iv.</p>
<p><b>(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</b></p>	<p><i>i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.</i> Warning signage consisted of two “men at work” signs and safety bollards, which were erected shortly after noticing the spill. No other, more suitable signage was available at the time.</p> <p><i>ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.</i> Clean up undertaken to minimise risk to public health and the environment. Area was inspected for gross pollutants of which none were observed. The area has had chlorine applied to the spill.</p>
<p><b>(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA</b></p>	<p>PWC Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services</p>

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### Appendix A – Site location map



Appendix B – Photographs of the discharge location

