

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

<b>Date and Time of Notification:</b>	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2023, 12:30hrs
<b>Person / Company:</b>	Power and Water Corporation ( <b>PWC</b> )
<b>Incident:</b>	Discharge of sewage and effluent from the Lajamanu wastewater stabilisation ponds

<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>A combination of untreated, partially treated and fully treated wastewater</p> <p><i>ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.</i></p> <p>As this spill involved a mix of varying wastewater quality, of unknown proportions, it is not possible to provide wastewater quality data for this spill.</p> <p><i>iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.</i></p> <p>The volume of wastewater discharged is unknown, it is estimated though to be around 50 kilolitres.</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>Lajamanu wastewater 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>Discharge Point 1: 130.6510604E, 18.3414202S (pond 2 wall)          Discharge Point 2: 130.6514855E, 18.3412837S (pond 4 wall)          Final Discharge Point: 130.6540324E, 18.3422157S (approximate final discharge point)</p> <p>Discharge occurred from virtually the entire width of the southerly walls of ponds two and four, rather than just from the emergency discharge point, indicating that the inflow to the ponds was considerable.</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>Access by the public to the spill is possible, as the community's access road is adjacent to the wastewater stabilisation ponds (WWSP). Initially the spill was confined to within the WWSP fenced site, however it has</p>

	<p>since spread to the road. Access is in the process of being restricted by use of barricading, and signage is also being erected. Installation of this barricading was delayed due to the remote location and resources only being available locally for much smaller spills in terms of affected area.</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></p> <p>The timing of the overflow is unknown. The Utility Contract Service Worker, formerly known as the Essential Services Worker (ESO) responsible for this community advised the Katherine Power and Water co-ordinator.</p> <p><i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i></p> <p>The UCSW found that the ponds were overflowing, during a routine site inspection that was unfortunately delayed due to the recent inclement weather, preventing access to the ponds.</p> <p><i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>The exact cause of the overflow is unknown, with a number of potential contributing factors being investigated. One possibility, which is the most likely, is increased recent rainfall in the region has inundated the ponds through inflow and infiltration as well as directly into the ponds. Other possible causes are potentially poorly maintained sprinklers within the irrigation field, alarms being faulty and not warning the USCW in time to prevent the overflows, or the ponds have just reached their design capacity.</p> <p><i>iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>As per (c) iii,</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></p> <p>Barricading and signage is in the process of being erected to prevent or reduce the possibility of the public making contact with the spill.</p> <p><i>ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.</i></p> <p>Site was inspected for any wastewater gross pollutants, of which none were observed.</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 – Location Map with co-ordinates of discharge point and approximate final discharge location.

