

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Tuesday 5 th February 2019, 12:06 pm
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (PWC)
Incident:	Overflow of highly diluted sewage from the Rapid Creek Sewerage Pump station (SPS).
(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	<p>A wet weather/ monsoonal event has inundated the sewer system with stormwater run-off resulting in an overflow from specifically designed overflow relief pipe, then into Rapid Creek.</p> <p>The overflow is expected to have occurred intermittently during periods of heavy rainfall.</p> <p>Volume: Unknown.</p> <p>The sewerage catchments consist mainly of residential dwellings, it would be expected that the waste would be faecal matter and associated gross pollutants (earbuds, tissues, rags, sanitary items etc.). As the incident occurred as a result of a rainfall event, the waste material would be highly diluted as a result of stormwater inflow and infiltration.</p> <p>No sampling of the discharge water occurred at the time of the overflow. PWC has engaged CDU to undertake wet weather overflow water quality study. Due to the poor wet season currently being experience the results of the study are unlikely to be received by PWC until the end of the year (2019/2020 wet season). The aim of this project is to describe the quality of wastewater at both the discharge point and further downstream "source tracking".</p>

<p>(b) the place where the incident occurred</p>	<p>Rapid Creek Sewerage Pump Station Rapid Creek Road, Rapid Creek.</p> <p>Discharge point location: -12.38071236, 130.8633775 (refer to attachment 1)</p> <p>Final discharge location: Rapid Creek, its considered that significant flushing within the area occurred following the next high tide.</p>
<p>(c) the date and time of the incident</p>	<p>Overflow was identified on Monday February 4, 2019.</p> <p>PWC operations group were notified prior to the overflow occurring via a high level alarm in the wet-well. This alarm activates when wastewater levels within the wet-well exceed a certain level. Once the capacity of the wet-well is exceeded the overflow occurs. Following the high-level alarm PWCs operations staff attend the site regularly to monitor the overflow.</p> <p>The overflows are expected to have occurred intermittently during periods of heavy rainfall.</p> <p>Start time: Monday 04/02/2019, time 1349hrs Stop time: Monday 04/02/2019, time 2116hrs</p>
<p>(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur</p>	<p>A wet weather/ monsoonal event has inundated the sewer system with stormwater run-off resulting in an overflow from specifically designed overflow relief pipe located behind the Rapid Creek SPS.</p> <p>Sewage discharging from the overflow pipe onto Rapid Creek was clear. No gross pollutants or solids were observed.</p> <p>Prior to an overflow occurring, there are 3 sections of the sewage system that are designed to have storage capacity prior to the overflow occurring, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excess flow is diverted to the Lakeside Drive SPS – <i>however due to high inflows vol. within the catchment the Lakeside Drive SPS was overflowing at the same time</i> • Collection of wastewater within the wet-well • Sewage backs up into mains before overflow occurs

(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

Prevent:

Within the Rapid Creek catchment, PWC has undertaken visual inspections to identify/ensure the following:

- Overflow Relief Gullies (ORGs) are at the correct height
- Stormwater downpipes are connected to stormwater and not the sewerage system
- Camera inspections of the sewer network to check the general condition of the pipes and connection points

To-date approximately 90% of residents within the catchment has been inspected. Due to the poor wet season PWC is unable to determine if this project has resulted in a measurable decrease in overflow events. Phase 2 of this project (early planning stage) is to smoke test the sewer system to identify illegal entry points to the sewer network.

Where possible, inflow is diverted to the Lakeside Drive SPS, however during this event the Lakeside Drive SPS was also overflowing.

PWC is currently in the planning phase to increase the size of sewer main connecting the Rapid Creek and Lakeside Drive SPSs. Once this new main is operational, overflows within the network and at both SPSs are expected to decrease in frequency and volume.

Rectify: Incident rectification based on reduction in catchment rainfall levels. Overflows will cease when volumes in the system reduce.

Control: Crews monitoring site to manage overflow pathway and collect any solid material (No gross pollutants were observed). Public signage in place.

Clean-up: ongoing site monitoring for and clean-up of gross pollutants (giving considerations to weather conditions). No gross pollutants were observed.

(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA

Laura Haycock on behalf of Water Services, Power and Water Corporation.

Attachment 1 – location map

