

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Wednesday 22 nd December 2020, 13:30 hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (PWC)
Incident:	Discharge of raw sewage from sewerage network (ORG)

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	<i>i. Description of the waste that was discharged.</i> Raw sewage (no gross pollutants) <i>ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.</i> Inflow data to Ludmilla WWTP was 18.16ML/day, and rainfall leading up to the overflow was 39.2mm for the preceding 3 days (Darwin Airport – 014015), meaning that flows were above average dry weather flows, with minimal dilution. Please refer to the following table for indicative wastewater quality. Table 1: Inflow to Ludmilla Wastewater Treatment Plant <table><tr><th>Inflow volume</th><th>median inflow kL</th><th>median E coli</th><th>90th percentile inflow kL</th><th>90th percentile E coli</th></tr><tr><td>below ADWF</td><td>11,040</td><td>11,199,000</td><td>12,925</td><td>15,531,000</td></tr><tr><td>>ADWF (14.5 ML/day)</td><td>15,274</td><td>9,804,000</td><td>22,206</td><td>17,148,300</td></tr><tr><td>>2x ADWF (29.0 ML/day)</td><td>31,673</td><td>4,884,000</td><td>37,166</td><td>14,385,600</td></tr><tr><td>>3x ADWF (43.5 ML/day)</td><td>43,629</td><td>4,611,000</td><td>50,506</td><td>12,843,600</td></tr><tr><td>>5x ADWF (72.5 ML/day)</td><td>71,558</td><td>5,002,000</td><td>78,578</td><td>5,905,200</td></tr><tr><td>>WDL limit (89.5 ML/day)</td><td>102,445</td><td>102,445</td><td>148,575</td><td>13,704,400</td></tr></table> (ADWF= Average Dry Weather Flow ~14.5 ML/day in 2013/14) <i>iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.</i> The volume of waste discharged is unknown. No telemetric monitoring occurs at this location.	Inflow volume	median inflow kL	median E coli	90th percentile inflow kL	90th percentile E coli	below ADWF	11,040	11,199,000	12,925	15,531,000	>ADWF (14.5 ML/day)	15,274	9,804,000	22,206	17,148,300	>2x ADWF (29.0 ML/day)	31,673	4,884,000	37,166	14,385,600	>3x ADWF (43.5 ML/day)	43,629	4,611,000	50,506	12,843,600	>5x ADWF (72.5 ML/day)	71,558	5,002,000	78,578	5,905,200	>WDL limit (89.5 ML/day)	102,445	102,445	148,575	13,704,400
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(b) the place where the incident occurred	<i>i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.</i> Overflow relief gully (ORG) from 3 McKay Place, Milner. <i>ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point.</i> Discharge Point: 130.8642670E, -12.3926296S Final Discharge Point: 130.8644586E, -12.3926781S <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>																																			

	Access to the public is not possible as it occurred on a fenced private property. Automatic gate prevents access except when undertaken by residents.
(c) the date and time of the incident	<i>i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.</i> The exact commencement time of the overflow is unknown. The overflow was first observed by PWC staff at approximately 14:50pm on 21/12/2020 and was stopped an hour later by site crews at 15:50pm (21/12/2020). <i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i> A resident of 3 McKay Place called the Power and Water customer service centre, who then notified the relevant sewerage networks department. PWC staff attended the site at approximately 14:50hrs on 21/12/2020 and resolved the overflow. <i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i> The cause of the spill was due to a blockage in the nearby sewer rising main, caused by a build-up of fat. Fat and other substances have been incorrectly disposed of into the sewer network by customers, resulting in the blockage and the overflow. When fats, oils and meat juices are put down the sink it is usually as a liquid, but as it cools it can become more solid and cause build-up, resulting in bad odours and blockages in the sewerage system. This can lead to the sewage overflows into the environment, households and businesses. Public education about what can be disposed in sewer/is flushable: https://www.powerwater.com.au/about/what-we-do/wastewater/sewer-blockages-and-overflows/think-before-you-put-it-down-the-sink In the aim of prevention, this material is available on the PWC website and is used as an educational tool for customers. <i>iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.</i> As per (c) iii.
(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur	As per (c) iii & (c) iv.
(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>i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.</i> No signage or fencing was erected in this instance, as the spill occurred at a fenced, private residence. All residents residing there were advised to avoid contact with the area. <i>ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.</i> 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, and the surrounding surface was cleaned and disinfected. Landholders advised not to enter affected areas for a minimum of 5 days after clean-up.
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	PWC Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services

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Appendix A – Location Map



Appendix B – Photographs – Spill site, ORG on northern side of residence.



Appendix B – Photographs – Automatic gate (preventing access) & Stormwater drain, adjacent to resident's driveway. Both photos taken the following day, post clean up.

