

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Friday 13/03/2020 11:40hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (PWC)
Incident:	Overflow of diluted fully treated effluent

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	<i>i. Description of the waste that was discharged.</i> Overflow of diluted fully treated effluent. <i>ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.</i> Diluted treated effluent. <i>iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.</i> SCADA indicates a flow of 1.2 litres per second, with 1.347 ML having discharged up to 16/03/2020.
(b) the place where the incident occurred	<i>i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.</i> Angurugu Wastewater Ponds, Angurugu – Groote Eylandt. Overflow is from infiltration basin after treatment ponds so effluent is “fully” treated. <i>ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point.</i> Discharge Point: 136.4520024, -13.9802776 Final discharge point: 136.4497657, -13.9788083 <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> Discharge is to nearby bushland, via a purpose built drain, which is accessible to the public. Communication in place including appropriate signage along the drain to alert the public and prevent them coming in close proximity.
(c) the date and time of the incident	<i>i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.</i> 03/03/2020, time unknown. Ongoing at time of reporting. <i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i>

	The Essential Services Operator looking after the facility notified the Water and Sewage Network Coordinator. <i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i> Monsoonal weather associated with the wet season resulted in 169.8mm falling in the two weeks prior to the overflow starting. Treated effluent from Angurugu is disposed of by infiltration, irrigation and evaporation; during and after monsoonal bursts rainfall input to the ponds and effluent input from the community exceeds the infiltration, irrigation and evaporation capacity of the site and overflow from the infiltration basin occurs. <i>iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.</i> Effluent is disposed of via evaporation, irrigation and infiltration, but due to rainfall, this saturated the treatment pond irrigation and infiltration area resulting in fully treated effluent overflow from the site.
(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> PWC prepared designs in 2013 to formalise and install an outfall pipe to the Angurugu River to allow controlled discharge of treated effluent during periods of high rainfall. Traditional owners of the land and another group of sacred site custodians could not agree on alignment of outfall pipe so a permanent solution was not able to be constructed. No rectification is possible as overflow is rainfall dependent. Diversion drains in place to direct the effluent from the ponds across the road and into bushland. Onsite staff monitoring situation and overflow pathway. Signage has been placed within the area to alert the public and the overflow area is located within a restricted road reducing the probability of the public coming in within close proximity. Fencing not appropriate in this instance, as the spill is flowing over a road and discharging into nearby bushland, with no anticipated access by the public. Warning signage has been erected. <i>ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.</i> Overflow is diluted treated effluent, sewage debris is not present. Natural processes (UV disinfection) will provide disinfection of the discharge. Mosquito larvae baiting is also being undertaken to prevent an increase in biting pests within the community.
(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 – Photos of discharge travelling along drainage ditch



Appendix B – Photos of warning signage along drainage ditch



Appendix B – Photos of discharge travelling along drainage ditch





