

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Wednesday 5 th August 2020, 14:30
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (PWC)
Incident:	Discharge of raw sewage from Sewer Pump Station (SPS) 2, Garawa. Power and Water is reporting this overflow on behalf of the Department of Housing. Power and Water operates the assets located within Garawa Camp, but are not the owners.

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution

i. Description of the waste that was discharged.

Raw sewage (no gross pollutants).

ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.

Wastewater quality for the overflow is not available as wastewater quality sampling does not occur at the Garawa community. Indicative wastewater quality for this overflow can be found in the table below. Based on Bureau of Meteorology data from the Borroloola Airport weather station (14723), 0.0 mm of rain has been recorded for the month of July and August 2020, indicating that raw sewage (Average Dry Weather Flows (ADWF)) overflowed from the SPS. Observations from PWC staff indicate that the overflow appeared to be purely liquid, with no gross pollutants visible. Gross pollutants were trapped by the lid on the overflow point.

Table 1: Inflow to Ludmilla Wastewater Treatment Plant

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

(ADWF= Average Dry Weather Flow ~14.5 ML/day in 2013/14)

iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.

The volume of waste discharged is unknown, however an estimation of approx. 1000 L was provided by operations staff. No telemetric monitoring occurs at Garawa.

The overflow was observed by PWC contractors at the site, who then notified PWC staff. The overflow was observed by PWC staff at approx.

	07:00am on 5th August 2020. The overflow was stopped at approx. 07:15am on 5th August 2020. The discharge of raw sewage occurred from the SPS overflow point onto the surrounding land approx. 5m from the SPS boundary fence.
(b) the place where the incident occurred	Sewer Pump Station (SPS) 2, Garawa Camp – please see maps below. <i>i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.</i> Sewer Pump Station (SPS) 2, Garawa Camp. <i>ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point.</i> Discharge Location: 136.3175656, -16.0744912 Receiving Environment Location: 136.3174142, -16.0744107 <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> The site is accessible to the public. Upon PWC crew attending the overflow, warning tape and a warning sign was installed around the overflow area to warn the public that a sewage overflow had occurred and restrict access to the site.
(c) the date and time of the incident	<i>i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.</i> The commencement time of the overflow is unknown. The overflow was observed at approximately 07:00am on 5th August, and stopped at approximately 7:15am on 5th August. <i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i> The overflow was observed by PWC Contractor who notified PWC Water/Sewer Reticulation Staff. <i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i> The overflow occurred due to an electrical localised fault with the operational pump within the SPS, which was rectified once PWC staff arrived at site. <i>iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.</i> As per (c) iii. Sewerage network infrastructure has been designed to overflow with the best public health and environmental outcomes possible. Design focuses on not overflowing directly inside houses/businesses; rather discharge is designed to occur in a controlled manner at locations which can be accessed for infrastructure repair and clean up and with minimal public health or environmental impacts.
(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	Power and Water is reporting this overflow on behalf of the Department of Housing. Power and Water operates the assets located within Garawa Camp, but are not the owners.

or threatening to be caused by the incident	It should also be noted that both SPS's within Garawa are being replaced with upgraded infrastructure this calendar year, including SCADA telecommunications allowing alarms to be sent to Operations staff notifying them immediately of faults. Prior to the installation of permanent telecommunications at the site, a temporary alarm will be installed this Friday the 7th of August 2020. <i>i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.</i> Upon PWC attending the site, warning tape and a warning sign was installed to warn the public and prevent access to the overflow site. <i>ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.</i> Clean up undertaken consisted of removal of all sewage and contaminated soils by a vacuum unit and excavator. All contaminated waste was disposed of at the local sewerage ponds. The area was disinfected with granular chlorine sprinkled over the overflow site. Due to other operational requirements photos have not been received at this point in time.
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	PWC Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services.



Figure 1. Garawa Location



Figure 2. SPS 2 Location (Discharge location)



Figure 3. Discharge location (1) and Receiving Environment (2)



Figure 4. Overflow site post clean-up – warning tape and signage



Figure 5. Overflow site post clean-up – Warning tape and disinfectant spread over the site