Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Wednesday 2nd November 2021, 13:00hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (**PWC**)
Incident:	Discharge of raw sewage from sewerage network

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	*i. Description of the waste that was discharged.* Raw sewage *ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.* The average inflow data to Ludmilla WWTP for the 2nd November was 12.2ML/day, and rainfall for the preceding 24-hour period was 14.6mm (Darwin Airport – 014015), meaning that flows were average dry weather flows. Please refer to the following table for indicative wastewater quality. **Table 1: Inflows to Ludmilla WWTP** NOTE: Based on 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2020 inflows to Ludmilla WWTP and monitoring events data. Average dry weather inflow being 11.9012 ML/day. *iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.* The volume of waste discharged is unknown. No telemetric monitoring occurs at the site of discharge.
(b) the place where the incident occurred	*i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.* Access chamber 5/1 at the corner of Biddlecombe Road and Grice Crescent, Coolalinga. Immediately upstream of the private WWTP. *ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point.* Discharge Point: 131.0392924E, -12.5182014S Final Discharge Point: 131.0396154E, -12.5180774S (Stormwater drain)

	Median Inflow (ML)	Median E. coli	Median Enterococci	Dilution Terminology
below ADWF	11.401	14,136,000	713,550	Undiluted
>ADWF	13.253	11,616,000	727,000	Partially Diluted
>2xADWF	29.629	8,164,000	323,000	Diluted
>3xADWF	44.043	6,488,000	261,300	Highly diluted
>4xADWF	51.048	5,634,500	238,100	
>5xADWF	99.841	2,359,000	218,700	

	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. Access to the spill was possible, but the area was limited to a very small section of roadside between the manhole and the stormwater drain. Additionally, the spill site is not within a highly populated area and is surrounded by vacant land lots. The spill has been stopped, and the roadside cleaned, disinfected and flushed with clean water.
(c) the date and time of the incident	*i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.* The commencement time is shortly before 14:30hrs 02/11/2021, at which time a PWC contractor who was on site, notified the PWC Water and Sewer Reticulation Technician directly of the spill. *ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.* A PWC contractor who was on site at the privately owned WWTP, notified the PWC Water and Sewer Reticulation Technician directly of the spill; who then instructed the contractor to immediately begin removing sewage from the access chamber via an educator / vacuum truck, to relieve pressure from the system and stop the overflow. Four vacuum trucks were operating for four hours to prevent further spillage, until the WWTP operator could rectify the cause. *iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.* The cause of the spill was most likely due to a failure of the nearby privately owned sewage pumping station, which caused sewage to back up within the reticulated sewage system, causing the first manhole upstream from the sewage pumping station to overflow. This WWTP is owned by Gwelo (now in liquidation - Dentons) and is being operated by ENVIRA on behalf of the liquidator. *iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.* 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. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.* Fencing and signage was not erected in this instance, as the flow was from the manhole directly onto a footpath, then roadside kerb before entering the stormwater drain. All surfaces were cleaned, disinfected and thoroughly flushed with clean water, consistent with the PWC Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction, as appropriate to the location. *ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.* 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, and the area disinfected. *iii*. *Attempts made to prevent, reduce or control the discharge* As the sewage pumping station associated with this discharge is privately owned, there is no action that Power and Water could have taken to prevent or control this spill. The spill volume was reduced considerably by the quick action of PWC's contractor there at the time.
(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 – Photograph of one of four educator trucks relieving pressure on sewage system.