

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Tuesday 13 th July 2021, 16:25pm
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (PWC)
Incident:	Discharge of untreated sewage from sewerage network (scour pipe)

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	<i>i. Description of the waste that was discharged.</i> Untreated sewage. <i>ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.</i> Indicative wastewater quality for this overflow can be found in Table 1. Table 1 includes wastewater results from the Alice Springs pond facility – Pond 1 Inlet. Rainfall leading up to the overflow was 0.0mm for the previous 7 days (Alice Springs Airport – 15590), therefore raw sewage is believed to have overflowed from the Manhole. Table 1 – Alice Springs Inlet Sewer <table border="1" data-bbox="596 1234 1458 1361"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th><th>E. Coli (MPN/100ml)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>07/07/21</td><td>13,960,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>28/06/21</td><td>12,230,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>22/06/21</td><td>14,010,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <i>iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.</i> The exact volume of waste discharged is unknown. No telemetric monitoring occurs at scour pipes. PWC Operations estimate approximately 315,000 litres of wastewater was discharged, based off pump run times and flows in the area. The overflow was detected by PWC personnel at approximately 10:00 hrs 13/07/21 during works in the area.	Date	E. Coli (MPN/100ml)	07/07/21	13,960,000	28/06/21	12,230,000	22/06/21	14,010,000
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(b) the place where the incident occurred	520 Stuart Highway, Alice Springs – Scour Pipe <i>i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.</i> Scour pipe located near the old Drive In / Solar Farm – Alice Springs – as per map below. <i>ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point</i> Discharge Point: 133.8673761 E, 23.7669086 S								

	Final Discharge Point: 133.8673761 E, 23.7669086 S The discharge point and final discharge point are in the same location. Discharge did not enter any waterways or stormwater drains. <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> Public access is available to the area however is not believed to be frequently accessed. The spill area is being cordoned off with bunting/flagging tape to prevent public access.
(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 but is believed to have occurred approximately three weeks ago. The overflow was detected by PWC personnel at approximately 10:00 hrs 13/07/21 during works in the area, and was stopped at 10:00 hrs 13/07/21. <i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i> The overflow was detected by PWC personnel at approximately 10:00 hrs 13/07/21 during works in the area. <i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i> The cause of the incident is due to a sewer scour being incorrectly opened, as it was mistaken for a water scour, during works on a water main in the area. As the nearby sewer pump station engaged, sewage was released from the scour pipe intermittently over the past three weeks. It should be noted it was not a continuous release of sewage from the scour pipe, it occurred intermittently only during pump operating times. PWC Operations estimate approximately 315,000 litres of sewage was released in total over the three week period the scour pipe was open. <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.
(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	Upon detection, the scour pipe valve was closed stopping the overflow. <i>i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.</i> The area is being cordoned off with bunting /flagging tape to prevent public access. These restrictions will remain in place for five days post clean up. <i>ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.</i>

	The area was inspected for gross pollutants and removed as identified. Contaminated soil is being removed, followed by application of lime and clean top soil.
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	PWC Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services

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Figure 1 – Location map



Photo 1 – Scour pipe and overflow area



Photo 2 – Overflow area (before clean-up)

