Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Monday 7th February 2022, 16:07hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (**PWC**)
Incident:	Discharge of sewage from sewerage network, Santa Teresa sewage stabilisation ponds

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	*i. Description of the waste that was discharged.* Fully treated and diluted sewage *ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.* No representative wastewater quality data is available for this site. The sewage is not only diluted but also fully treated, as pond three is the final treatment pond, with ponds 4 and 5 being evaporation ponds. The heavy rainfall in the area prior to the overflow would have heavily diluted the contents of the ponds. *iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.* The exact volume of wastewater 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.* Santa Teresa wastewater stabilisation ponds, pond number 3. *ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point.* Discharge Point: 134.3654686E, 24.1448824S (pond 3 overflow point) Final Discharge Point: 134.3669022E, 24.1457159S *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 by the public is possible to the majority of the spill, however due to the location of the ponds being over a kilometre from the community, it is not expected for this area to be frequented by the public.
(c) the date and time of the incident	*i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.*

	The exact timing of the overflow is unknown, but was first observed on Friday 4th February 2022 by the local pastoralist. *ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.* The local pastoralist from Allambi Station advised the MacDonnell Regional Council, who in turn advised the PWC Water and Sewer Technical Coordinator. *iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.* The valve that joins ponds 2 and 4 had been inadvertently left closed. If this valve was in the open position, as it would be for normal operation, there would have been sufficient capacity for the additional inflow and rainfall and the overflow would not have happened. The valve has since been opened to prevent further overflows from occurring. *iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.* As per (c) iii, Operator error, inadvertently leaving valve in closed position following maintenance works.
(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 has not been erected in this instance, as access is possible from all directions and is not practicable. Also, due to the location of the ponds being over a kilometre away from the community, it is not expected for this area to be frequented by the public. *ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.* Clean up consistent with Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction as appropriate to the location. Site was inspected for any wastewater gross pollutants, of which none were observed.
(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 – Aerial photograph of spill