Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Tuesday 21/01/2025 14:35hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (PWC)
Incident:	Diluted and treated effluent spill

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	*i. Description of the waste that was discharged.* Diluted and treated effluent. *ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.* The below table shows the results of recent monitoring. The actual effluent quality is likely to be better in that it is diluted with stormwater. *iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.* Unknown, discharge is ongoing and there is no flowmeter at the discharge point. Flow is described as light.
(b) the place where the incident occurred	*i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.* Adelaide River Wastewater Ponds (Lot 169) *ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point.* (1) Discharge Point: 131.1059588, -13.2302731 (2) Final discharge point: 131.1029843, -13.2273207 *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.* Discharge is to a channel on a fenced neighbouring private property, where there is no public access. This channel then flows through to bushland and ultimately to Snake Creek, which is away from normal public access locations however it is accessible to the public
(c) the date and time of the incident	*i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.* Exact time of commencement is unknown and was first observed at approximately 10:00hrs 21/01/2025. Ongoing at time of reporting.

		Bacteriological	Physical and General Chemical							
Sample Date	Description	E. coli (MPN/100 mL)	Ammonia Nitrogen (NH3-N) (mg/L)	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)		Nitrate as N (NO3-N) (mg/L)		Nitrate + Nitrite as N (NOx-N) (mg/L)	pH (lab)	Phosphorus - Total (mg/L)
3/12/2024	ADELAIDE RIVER POND 3	7,330.0	0.9	61.0	<	0.1	<	0.1	9.98	1.7
12/11/2024	ADELAIDE RIVER POND 3	200.0	0.9	20.0	<	0.1	<	0.1	8.5	1.3
15/10/2024	ADELAIDE RIVER POND 3	970.0	0.6	88.0	<	0.1	<	0.1	9.67	3.4

	ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge. The Power and Water Headworks Coordinator noticed the spill in the morning of 21/01/2025 at around 10:00hrs, when conducting a site visit. *iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.* Top End wet season rain events have inundated the sewer system with stormwater resulting in treated effluent being discharged at the emergency overflow discharge point. The flowrate of the discharge is low as there is a partial blockage of the discharge pipe. Rainfall for the month of January up to 9am on the 20/01/2025 was 148mm. *iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.* Due to rainfall, stormwater infiltration to the sewerage network resulted in an increase in the effluent volume within the ponds. The effluent volume within the wastewater ponds is beyond capacity resulting in an offsite discharge.
(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.* Discharge is through a neighbouring private property which is already fenced, and the neighbour is aware of such events. *ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.* Overflow is diluted treated effluent; there are no gross pollutants present in the effluent.
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	PWC Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services

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