



Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Sanitary Sewer Overflow Written Report

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2892973-071-2019

MDE OFFICIAL CONTACTED: REGAN

DATA CALLED IN BY: DALE L BELSCHNER

DATE: 08/10/2019 AT 02:07AM

WORK ORDER(S): 2892973

EST DATE AND TIME SSO BEGAN: 08/09/2019 11:12AM DURATION: 12.42 HRS

DATE AND TIME SSO ENDED: 08/09/2019 11:37PM

SOURCE-FACILITY 00456065200 WATER BODY AFFECTED-BROAD CREEK

CLOSEST STREET ADDRESS: 10315 LIVINGSTON RD 20744

COUNTY/PAGE/GRID: P 5880 K01 TOWN/CITY: FORT WASHINGTON

CAUSE: OTHER

EST OVERFLOW VOLUME: 5,220,000 GAL

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BROAD CREEK WWPS FACILITY PLAN PROJECT, A NEW 48" FORCE MAIN WAS TIED INTO THE EAST VALVE VAULT ON 08/08/19. ON 08/09/19, THE 48" FORCE MAIN WAS BEING FILLED, BUT THE 16" FORCE MAIN DRAIN VALVE WAS INADVERTENTLY LEFT OPEN. DUE TO CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCING, THIS MAIN DRAIN LINE IS CAPPED IN THE PUMPING STATION'S SOUTH WETWELL. THE STATION SURGE TANK DRAIN AND SURGE TANK VAULT SUMP PUMP DRAIN LINE IS CONNECTED TO A 6" DRAIN LINE THAT IS IN TURN CONNECTED TO THE MAIN 16" DRAIN LINE FROM THE FORCE MAIN DRAIN SYSTEM. THE 6" SURGE TANK AND VAULT DRAIN LINE IS EQUIPPED WITH A CLEAN OUT RISER THAT GOES TO GROUND LEVEL AND IS PLUGGED. ONCE THE 48" FORCE MAIN WAS NEARLY FULL, THE RESULTING PRESSURE TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE OPEN 16" FORCE MAIN DRAIN VALVE CAUSED THE PLUG IN THE CLEANOUT PIPE RISER TO BLOW OUT AND THE SSO BEGAN, RESULTING IN A GEYSER OF ROUGHLY 20 TO 25 FEET IN HEIGHT. SINCE THE VALVE VAULTS WERE INUNDATED WITH THE SSO, THE VALVES IN THE EAST VAULT WERE SUBMERGED AND INACCESSIBLE. THE STATION HAD TO BE SHUT OFF FROM RECEIVING INCOMING FLOW BY CLOSING THE INFLUENT GATES; THE 48" FORCE MAIN HAD TO BE MOSTLY DRAINED THROUGH THE CLEAN OUT; MOBILE PUMPS HAD TO BE MOBILIZED TO THE SITE; AND THE EAST VALVE VAULT HAD TO BE PUMPED OUT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE OPEN VALVE AND THE VALVES DIRECTING FLOW TO THE 48" FORCE MAIN. ONCE THE 16" DRAIN VALVE WAS CLOSED, THE OVERFLOW OUT OF THE CLEANOUT RISER CEASED, AND THE STATION RESUMED NORMAL OPERATION WITH FLOW DIRECTED THROUGH THE 36" FORCE MAIN. INLET GATES TO THE STATION WERE RE-OPENED ALLOWING INFLUENT FLOW TO THE STATION TO RESUME. SHORTLY AFTER INFLUENT FLOW RESUMED, THE OVERFLOW ENDED.

IMPACTS UPON PUBLIC HEALTH AND STATE WATERS:

DRY WEATHER

NOTICEABLE ODOR

PUBLIC ACCESS

IMPACT CONSIDERED MODERATE WITH A CONSIDERATE AMOUNT OF UNTREATED WASTEWATER DISCHARGED. THE RECEIVING STREAM IS LARGE AND TIDAL IN NATURE WHICH SHOULD FLUSH AND DILUTE WITH NO LONG TERM IMPACT.

STEPS TAKEN OR PLANNED TO REDUCE, ELIMINATE AND PREVENT RECURRENCE:

THIS EVENT OCCURRED DUE TO A FORCE MAIN DRAIN VALVE BEING INADVERTENTLY LEFT OPEN WHILE FILLING THE FORCE MAIN ON THE GROUNDS AT THE BROAD CREEK WWPS. THE FORCE MAIN AND CONNECTING SYSTEMS ON THE GROUNDS OF THE STATION CANNOT BE CCTV INSPECTED. ANY FUTURE VALVE OPERATIONS WILL BE PERFORMED WITH A CHECK LIST THAT WILL BE WITNESSED BY TWO PEOPLE TO INSURE VALVES ARE IN THE PROPER POSITION. THIS WILL BE IN EFFECT UNTIL VALVES ARE CONNECTED TO POWER AND SIGNAL LINES.



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MEASURES INITIATED/TAKEN TO MINIMIZE IMPACT:

LIME

CREWS AND CONTRACTORS QUICKLY MOBILIZED TO DRAIN THE FORCE MAIN AND PUMP DOWN THE VAULT TO ACCESS VALVES. HYDRATED LIME WAS APPLIED TO IMPACTED GROUND AREAS. ANY POOLED WASTEWATER IS TO BE PUMPED BACK INTO THE COLLECTION SYSTEM. THE STATION'S FORCE MAIN DRAIN LINE WILL BE PRESSURE TESTED BY PLANT STAFF, CONSULTANTS, AND CONTRACTORS, TO VERIFY INTEGRITY.

NOTIFICATIONS MADE:

PG COUNTY HEALTH DEPT
NEWSPAPER
TELEVISION

MD DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
RADIO STATIONS
PG COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

MDE - REGAN - WATCH OFFICER MEMA @ 2:07 AM 8/10/19. VERBAL DISCUSSION WITH RENATO CUIZONE (MDE INSPECTOR) OCCURRED AT 2:47 PM ON 8/12/2019. PG HEALTH DEPT VM ON AFTER HOURS CELL. ALL NOTIFICATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS BY DALE BELSCHNER; SIGNS WILL BE UPDATED W/ FLOW VOLUME. MEDIA ADVISORY ISSUED 08/09/19; UPDATED MEDIA ADVISORY ISSUED 08/10/19.

SIGNS POSTED: 16 POST DATE: 08/09/2019