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MAJOR SPILL REPORT TO EPD

DATE OF MAJOR SPILL: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 – Wednesday, October 6, 2021

REPORT SUBMITTED: Monday, October 11, 2021

LOCATION OF MAJOR SPILL: [Outfall/Discharge to Ocmulgee River from the Rocky Creek Water Reclamation Facility at 4705 Mead Road](#)

CAUSE OF MAJOR SPILL: High solids caused the WRF to exceed its daily threshold of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) as stated in the Authority's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES).

MEASURED TSS EFFLUENT RESULT: The Georgia EPD requires Rocky Creek WRF to report as a Major Spill if the discharge to the waters of the State exceeds on any single day 67.5 mg/L for TSS. The TSS results for each daily major spill that occurred are:

- 10/05/21 – 101 mg/L (28.79 MG)
- 10/06/21 – 93 mg/L (40.16 MG)

VOLUME OF EFFLUENT DISCHARGED: 68.95 MG

RECEIVING WATERS: Ocmulgee River

SERVICE BASIN AFFECTED: Lower Rocky Creek

WRF SERVICE AREA NPDES PERMIT: GA0024546

CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN TO MITIGATE OR TO REDUCE ADVERSE EFFECTS:

The Rocky Creek WRF had been attempting to slowly move solids settled out during Graphic Packaging International's annual shut down and start up through the plant. The sudden heavy rainfall drove the plant flow up in surges and stirred up a lot of solids and pushed them through the plant too quickly. One aeration basin completely washed out. The operators began rerouting flow and solids to try and keep the extra solids contained in the plant processes as much as possible. They also requested extra testing for TSS to monitor performance. The wasting has been slowed and microbial observation has been increased in frequency to ensure that the microbe populations, which were decreased by the heavy load demand and washout have time to recover and provide proper breakdown. There was already a polymer system set up that was being utilized during the start up to aid in solids settling, so the polymer feed rates were adjusted as needed. The Rocky Creek WRF's flows have been staying higher than normal but are slowly dropping off each day.

SPILL STATUS: Contained.

SIGNS POSTED: Wednesday, October 6, 2021

CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT FUTURE SPILL:

MONITORING INITIATED: Wednesday, October 6, 2021

MEDIA / HEALTH DEPARTMENT / OTHERS NOTIFIED: Macon Telegraph, WMAZ (TV), WMGT (Radio), WGXA, Macon – Bibb County Health Department, State of Georgia Health Department

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Mickie Sanders