



**BOARD MEMBERS**

Samuel F. Hart, Sr.  
*Chairman*

Frank Patterson  
*Vice-Chairman*

Dr. Anissa Jones  
Desmond D. Brown  
Dwight Jones

Valerie Wynn  
Bill Howell

Jess R. Shell  
*Interim Executive  
Director and  
President*

---

790 Second Street  
P.O.Box 108  
Macon, GA 31202  
(478) 464-5600  
Fax: (478) 750-2007  
[MaconWater.org](http://MaconWater.org)

**MAJOR SPILL REPORT TO EPD**

**DATE OF MAJOR SPILL:** Sunday, December 26, 2021

**REPORT SUBMITTED:** Wednesday, December 29, 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:** 91 mg/L

**VOLUME OF EFFLUENT DISCHARGED:** 26.33 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:** Sudden heavy rainfall drove the Rocky Creek WRF flow up in surges and stirred up a lot of solids and pushed them through the plant too quickly. In addition, construction work is ongoing at one of the aeration basins, and repeated power disruptions affected the treatment process. The operators began rerouting flow and solids to the different processes to try and stop solids from spills and keep them contained in the plant as much as possible. Aerators were shut down when necessary to hold solids on the plant, and polymer was utilized to aid in settling. Monitoring was initiated by the central lab to assess the river conditions.

**SPILL STATUS:** Contained

**SIGNS POSTED:** Tuesday, December 28, 2021

**CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT FUTURE SPILL:** The operators are rerouting flow and solids as needed to try and keep the extra solids contained in the plant as much as possible. The presses are running continuously when personnel and space allow to try and make room to waste extra solids when possible. Interruptions to the aeration process are being done only when necessary. There was already a polymer system set up at the end of the aeration basins that was being utilized to aid in solids settling, so the polymer feed rates are being adjusted as needed, and more polymer has been ordered. The Rocky Creek WRF's flows have been staying higher than normal but are slowly dropping down to more manageable levels.

**MONITORING INITIATED:** December 28, 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