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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**

**EPD Watershed Protection Branch**  
**2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive**  
**Suite 1152**  
**Atlanta, GA 30334**

**DATE OF MAJOR SPILL:** January 10, 2024

**REPORT SUBMITTED:** January 17, 2024

**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 for the date reported was 76 mg/L.

**VOLUME OF EFFLUENT DISCHARGED:** 35.76 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:**

Aerators were immediately shut down to hold solids in the basins until the plant flows started dropping, and then were turned on slowly as plant conditions allowed to keep from overloading the clarifiers.

**SPILL STATUS:** Contained

**SIGNS POSTED:** Yes

**CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT FUTURE SPILL:** Our staff has been working to slowly get the aerators back on. As many aerators are being run as possible to continue to move the excess inventory through the treatment system and provide better solids breakdown, they are shut down only when necessary to hold solids in the aeration basins. Staff is also making continual adjustments to the aeration basins and clarifiers, when possible, to manage the solids onsite without any more loss to the effluent. We have clarifier polymer feed systems on standby if needed to aid in solids settling. Pressing and wasting are being done continuously while the storage room is available. In addition, the MWA staff is still pursuing options for plant expansion to provide additional treatment and additional volume in the event of major storm events.

**MONITORING INITIATED:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024

**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:** Bryan Jones