



MAJOR SPILL REPORT TO EPD

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DATE OF MAJOR SPILL: Wednesday, March 20, 2024

REPORT SUBMITTED: Monday, March 25, 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 264 mg/L.

VOLUME OF EFFLUENT DISCHARGED: 25.08 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 in the affected area of the plant were immediately shut down to hold solids in the basins until plant flows decreased, then were turned on slowly as plant conditions allowed to keep from overloading the clarifiers.

SPILL STATUS: Contained

SIGNS POSTED: March 5, 2024

CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT FUTURE SPILL: Our staff has been working to get the aerators in the affected area of the plant back on. As many aerators are being run as possible across the rest of the plant to move the excess inventory through the treatment system and provide better solids breakdown; they are slowed or shut down only as 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. Clarifier polymer feed systems are set up on standby to aid in solids settling. Wasting of excess solids is ongoing, and pressing is being done continuously while capacity is available. The MWA management is also pursuing options for plant expansion.

MONITORING INITIATED: Monday, March 4, 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