



MAJOR SPILL REPORT TO EPD

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DATE OF MAJOR SPILL: Tuesday, November 19, 2024

REPORT SUBMITTED: Friday, November 22, 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). Elevated flows due to inflow and infiltration from recent rainfall overwhelmed a splitter box for three large clarifiers fed from the basin which allowed flow exiting the scum boxes on the clarifiers into the effluent channel. In order to reduce the level in the splitter box, additional flow was temporarily sent to all six clarifiers, which caused the loss of additional solids.

MEASURED TSS EFFLUENT RESULT: The Georgia EPD requires the 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 70 mg/L.

VOLUME OF EFFLUENT DISCHARGED: 23.57 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 plant-wide was 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. Continuous sampling will be performed to monitor performance until the plant is returned to normal operations.

SPILL STATUS: Contained

SIGNS POSTED: November 22, 2024

CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT FUTURE SPILL: Our staff is making regular adjustments to the aeration basins and clarifiers to manage the solids without any loss to the effluent. The clarifier polymer feed systems will be run if necessary to aid in solids settling, but all three systems are currently shut down. Additionally, the MWA staff is pursuing options for plant upgrades that will provide better control of the various processes and will address inflow and infiltration in future Capital Improvement Plan projects.

MONITORING INITIATED: November 20, 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