



CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE
UTILITY SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT
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Brad E. Macek, Director

January 26, 2021

Jason Andreotta, Director
Southeast District
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3301 Gun Club Road
MSC 7210-1
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

RE: Virtual Meeting Follow Up to Warning Letter #WL20-00129DW56SED
Sanitary Sewer Overflows from 7/21/20 to 12/06/20
PSLU Westport WWTF
Facility ID Number: FLA139653
St. Lucie County

Dear Mr. Andreotta:

The City of Port St. Lucie Utility Systems Department (PSLUSD) appreciates the time, attention, and shared concerns provided by you and staff regarding the recent wastewater spills. The PSLUSD remains committed to the accurate and transparent reporting of wastewater spills. While these unfortunate events do occur, PSLUSD is dedicated to take actions to prevent future spills and learning from prior events. Below, please find a list of the recent spills addressed in your December 5th letter, along with some additional clarifying information including additional actions being taken by the PSLUSD.

SWO #	Incident Date	Final Spill Volume (gallons)	Surface Water (Y/N)	Location
2020-3360	07/21/2020	1,400	Y	3360 SW Savona Blvd., Port St. Lucie

- This spill at WP14 was a result of a power outage. Once power was restored, the lift station immediately began to pump down. The Utility is currently assessing our existing lift station power outage alarms and looking for ways to improve.

SWO #	Incident Date	Final Spill Volume (gallons)	Surface Water (Y/N)	Location
2020-4126	8/06/2020	1,125	Y	9862 SW Eastbrook Cr., Port St. Lucie

- This spill at WP78 was caused by a failed phase monitor. The Utility is currently looking into the feasibility of adding alternative alarms that would catch these types of malfunctions.

SWO #	Incident Date	Final Spill Volume (gallons)	Surface Water (Y/N)	Location
2020-4580	8/30/2020	1,000	Y	9806 SW Eastbrook Cr., Port St. Lucie

- The spill that originated from WP-78 was the result of an electrical surge. Both pump starters malfunctioned, and the alarm probe was found to have been bad. The Utility is again looking at alternative alarms that would help identify similar malfunctions.

SWO #	Incident Date	Final Spill Volume (gallons)	Surface Water (Y/N)	Location
2020-4762	09/08/2020	900	N	4380 SW Darwin Blvd., Port St. Lucie

- Upon regularly scheduled station checks, PSLUSD staff found the cap off the pump out connection and a slow leak. PSLUSD staff will do a more thorough job of making sure items such as this one are addressed during their checks.

SWO #	Incident Date	Final Spill Volume (gallons)	Surface Water (Y/N)	Location
2020-4980	9/16/2020	1,200	N	3721 SW Darwin Blvd., Port St. Lucie

- This spill was the result of a private contractor (TLC Diversified, Inc.) performing plant expansion construction work. The PSLUSD believes this to have been an isolated event and the work has since been completed and the contractor is no longer on site.

SWO #	Incident Date	Final Spill Volume (gallons)	Surface Water (Y/N)	Location
2020-5925	10/25/20	5,000	Y	2089 SE Camden St., Port St. Lucie

- This spill was the result of heavy rainfall infiltration in which General Development Era SP16 could not keep up. PSLUSD has designed a replacement lift station, and the project is currently out to bid. In the interim, staff has mobilized a backup pump at the existing lift station that will aid in keeping up with flows during abnormal weather events. Also, a new parallel force main has been recently been added to help downstream pressure issues and our infiltration and inflow program continues to focus on the area.

SWO #	Incident Date	Final Spill Volume (gallons)	Surface Water (Y/N)	Location
2020-6150	11/06/20	300	N	1010 SW Majorca Ave., Port St. Lucie

- This spill was the result of a site development contractor inadvertently damaging the line while working in the area. The PSLUSD currently holds monthly stakeholder meetings in which all developers are invited to attend. During these meetings the Utility regularly discusses hazards and concerns for live systems. Ultimately, the site development contractor was at fault for the damage. The Utility is actively discussing ways to maximize inspectors time out in the field to aid in oversight of any work.

SWO #	Incident Date	Final Spill Volume (gallons)	Surface Water (Y/N)	Location
2020-6242	11/10/20	400	Y	320 SE Naranja Ave., Port St. Lucie

- NP-3 was unable to keep up with the infiltration from heavy rainfall. The PSLUSD has taken immediate action to prioritize upgrades to this area/neighborhood's General Development era collections system that currently pumps low pressure force mains into gravity systems. The project is currently under design, and funds have been earmarked for the project known as Naranja Low Pressure Main - Phases 1 thru 3. Phases 1 and 2 are currently planned to be completed in 2021 with an estimated expenditure of \$425,000.

SWO #	Incident Date	Final Spill Volume (gallons)	Surface Water (Y/N)	Location
2020-6727	12/06/20	1,500	N	2218 SE Seamist St., Port St. Lucie

- This spill was the result of a split in the 4" General Development era Driscoll sanitary sewer lower pressure force main sitting on hard clay. This type of brittle piping is being replaced as issues arise.

SWO #	Incident Date	Final Spill Volume (gallons)	Surface Water (Y/N)	Location
2020-6784	12/09/20	174,900	Y	3721 SW Darwin Blvd., Port St. Lucie

- This spill of treated secondary plant effluent occurred at the Westport Wastewater Treatment Facility. A 24" riser pipe pulled out of a restrained mechanical joint on the 90-degree fitting at the facility's deep injection well. Visual inspection revealed that the joint was a restrained gland and the cleats were tightened per specifications & bolt heads detached per manufactures specifications. Speculations are that water hammer caused this event. Maintenance staff pulled the ARV's @ the DIW pumps & cleaned them. Also, pulled & disassembled the main ARV @ the top of the well head & found it was stuck closed (this may have contributed to the pipe joint failure); it was cleaned & reassembled. PSLUSD believes that the proper repairs have been made to prevent this from occurring again.

As discussed in the virtual meeting held on 1/6/2020, we are currently in process of converting to a state of the art, work order and asset management system. The new software will include the ability to assign estimated life expectancies of all our utility assets which should help plan for future maintenance and replacement prior to failures.

Wastewater Collection System Improvement Projects Completed:

- *Melaleuca Blvd Parallel Force Main (FM), \$580,000, Completed: 1/25/2021
- Glades Cutoff Road 24" FM Design, \$182,300, Complete 2021
- Unit 5 Hybrid Vacuum Station & System, \$5,030,175, Completed: 7/15/2020
- Glades Wastewater Flow Control, \$169,391, Completed: 3/12/2020
- *Lyngate 8" parallel FM \$123,818, Completed: 12/02/2020
- Southport 24" Backbone FM, \$3,854,296, Completed: 1/07/2020

Wastewater Collection System Improvement Projects Under Design:

- *Club Med FM Replacement (2021), Estimated Expenditure: \$579,000
- *Naranja Low Pressure Main Phase 1 (2021), Estimated Expenditure: \$411,000
- *Naranja Low Pressure Main Phase 2 (2021), Estimated Expenditure: \$125,000
- *Naranja Low Pressure Main Phase 3 (2022), Estimated Expenditure: \$160,000

*These were unplanned/unbudgeted capital improvement projects that were advanced due to the recent spills

Lift Station Replacements and/or Upgrades:

- SP-16, Estimated Expenditure: \$650,000, Date to be Completed: 12/2021
- SP-20, Expenditure: \$383,275, Date Completed: 11/17/2020
- NP-12, Expenditure: \$539,507, Date Completed: 7/08/2020
- SP-50, Expenditure: \$444,558, Date Completed: 1/29/2020
- NP-11, Expenditure: \$466,121, Date Completed: 9/27/2019
- SP-40, Expenditure: \$456,111, Date Completed: 4/22/2019
- SP-30, Expenditure: \$401,554, Date Completed: 3/07/2018

PSLUSD continues to address aging General Development Era infrastructure deficiencies as our goal is always to prevent any future spills.

Your consideration in this matter will be greatly appreciated. Please call me if you have any questions or require further clarification.

Sincerely,

Brad E. Macek
Director

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