

Ontario Clean Water Agency Environmental Incident Report

Facility ID: 5004 EIncidentReport
Facility Name: Wasaga Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant
Address: 30 Woodland Drive
City: Wasaga Beach
Province: Ontario
Postal Code: L9Z2V4
Date of Occurrence: 05/12/2023
Time of Occurrence: 06:30:00 AM

Nature of the Incident

Level 1 Contingency Level 2 Contingency Level 3 Contingency [Click here To Show the Definitions](#)

Incident affected: Air Water Land Nothing

What was discharged or emitted?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chlorine | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil/Diesel/Gas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sodium Hypochlorite | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Untreated or partly treated sewage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calcium Chloride | <input type="checkbox"/> Odours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Compounds (Specify in Other) | <input type="checkbox"/> Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arsenic | <input type="checkbox"/> Iron Coagulants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fluoride | |

Other: NASM Certified and Land Ready Biosolids Material

If this was a discharge, spill or emission...

If a liquid, approximately what quantity was released?: 1400000 Litres

If a gas, approximately what quantity was released?: _____

If a solid, approximately what quantity was released?: _____ Kg

What was the source of release?:

On May 12, 2023 at approximately 0630 hrs, Region of Huronia Environmental Services (ROHES) had arrived on site at the WPCP to haul biosolids from Sludge Storage Tower #1 to apply the NASM certified biosolids, which was ready for field application, to land. Upon arrival ROHES and operations staff had discovered that check-valve failure had led to the biosolids contents spilling out from the valve/sludge transfer pumps and out onto the surrounding area in the WPCP complex towards adjacent MNR parkland. Operations Manager Richard Eagle received a call from the Town at 0649 hrs to notify OCWA that the Town had received a call from a resident regarding a possible sewage spill on the north side of the WPCP. Richard Eagle notified on-call operator Angela Pauze at 0655hrs of the potential incident.

Where did the release go?:

On Land- Area surrounding the Biosolids Building/Complex towards adjacent MNR Parkland

If it entered a watercourse: Yes No

If it went off site: Yes No

Duration of the release?: Unknown

Is the release now stopped?: Yes No

Was there any damage? (i.e. property and/or environmental): Yes No N/A

If "Yes", describe below and fill out "Insurance Claim" report

Action(s) Taken

What actions were taken to control the incident?

Operators responded by stopping the sludge pump, re-valving the flow to Sludge Storage 2 and redirecting flow back into the process. RHOES sucker truck began cleaning up the area adjacent to the building (sludge loading arm concrete pad area). The Senior Operations Manager contacted the MNR site supervisor to request access to the adjacent MNR land for further clean-up in the bush area. MNR granted access permission, further clean-up of the area to continue. All trails in the parkland/forest were closed to public access.

What actions have been taken to remediate the incident?

- Further cleanup of the spilled biosolids to continue throughout the day
- Biosolids material is NASM certified and was ready for field application. A sample was collected on May 8, 2023 prior to field application as per NASM guidelines. Results can be shared once received.
- Verbal notification was provided to the MNR, SAC, MOH-SMDHU and local MECF inspector (see reporting communication below).
- Operators staff to check the alarming system (high level float)
- Operations staff to perform root cause analysis on why valve failure occurred.

Was this a reportable spill or discharge?: Yes No

If "Yes", at what time was it first reported to the MOE?

May 12, 2023 at 1233 hrs to Spills Action Centre (SAC)

Was it reported to the MOE district office?: Yes No

If "Yes", which office/location and who was the contact?: MECP- Barrie District Office to local inspector Darren Haines

Was it reported to MOE SAC?: Yes No

If "Yes", at what time was it reported to MOE SAC?:

May 12, 2023 at 1233 hrs to SAC

Was it reported to Municipality?: Yes No

If "Yes", at what time was it reported to Municipality?:

Township was aware of potential spill around 0655 hrs on May 12, 2023

External Assistance/Involvement

Was corporate or area office assistance requested?: Yes No

If "Yes", was it received?: Yes No

Was external emergency assistance requested?: Yes No

If "Yes", from who?: Fire Department Equipment Suppliers Canutec
 Ambulance or Hospital MOE Coast Guard
 Police Municipality

Other: _____

Was there any media involvement?: Yes No

If "Yes", who?: _____

Was the public affected?: Yes No

If "Yes", how?: Public access to MNR parkland/trails and forest was closed

Updated By: Kristen Tilotta 05/12/2023 01:45:55 PM

Comments:

SAC Reference Number: 1-3GIJH8
Facility: Wasaga Beach WPCP
Works Number: 120001862
Spill Location: On Land- area surrounding the Biosolids Building and adjacent MNR parkland
Spill Date & Time: Start Time: Unknown Start Time. Discovered May 12, 2023 at 0630 hrs
Duration: Unknown
Spill Contents: Biosolids Material- NASM certified for and ready of land application
Approximate Volume: 1,400 m3

Incident Description
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field application, to land. Upon arrival RHOES and operations staff had discovered that check-valve failure had led to the biosolids contents spilling out from the valve/sludge transfer pumps and out onto the surrounding area in the WPCP complex towards adjacent MNR parkland. Operations Manager Richard Eagle received a call from the Town at 0649hrs to notify OCWA that the Town had received a call from a resident regarding a possible sewage spill on the north side of the WPCP. Richard Eagle notified on-call operator Angela Pauze at 0655hrs of the potential incident.

Actions Taken to Control Incident

Operators responded by stopping the sludge pump, re-valving the flow to Sludge Storage 2 and redirecting flow back into the process. RHOES sucker truck began cleaning up the area adjacent to the building (sludge loading arm concrete pad area). The Senior Operations Manager contacted the MNR site supervisor to request access to the adjacent MNR land for further clean-up in the bush area. MNR granted access permission, further clean-up of the area to continue. All trails in the parkland/forest were closed to public access.

Corrective Actions

- Further cleanup of the spilled biosolids to continue throughout the day
- Biosolids material is NASM certified and was ready for field application. A sample was collected on May 8, 2023 prior to field application as per NASM guidelines. Results can be shared once received.
- Verbal notification was provided to the MNR, SAC, MOH-SMDHU and local MECP inspector (see reporting communication below).
- Operators staff to check the alarming system (high level float)
- Operations staff to perform root cause analysis on why valve failure occurred.

Reporting

- May 12, 2023 at 0649 hrs Town of Wasaga Beach notified OCWA about a possible sewage spill on the north side of the WPCP.
- May 12, 2023 at 0655hrs Richard Eagle notified on-call operator Angela Pauze of the potential incident.
- May 12, 2023 at 0852 hrs: Operator Colin Kasperavicius verbally notified SPCM of confirmed spill incident.
- May 12, 2023 at approximately 1155 hrs: Senior Operations Manager- Richard Eagle notified and requested access to the MNR parkland from the site supervisor for remedial action clean-up of forest area. Access was provided. Public access to the forest/walking trails was closed.
- May 12, 2023 at 1233 hrs: SPCM Kristen Tilotta verbally notified the Spills Action Centre (SAC) and spoke with Environmental Officer Nigel. No further actions advised. Incident #1-3GIJH8 assigned.
- May 12, 2023 at 1236 hrs: SPCM Kristen verbally notified the Ministry of Health- Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit of Spill incident. Spoke with PHI Megan McCabe. No further actions advised.
- May 12, 2023 at 1245 hrs: SPCM Kristen Tilotta verbally notified local MECP Inspector Darren Haines. No immediate actions advised.