



Water Resources Department

Board of Commissioners

John Daniell, Chairman
Mark Thomas, Post 1
Chuck Horton, Post 2
W. E. "Bubber" Wilkes, Post 3
Mark Saxon, Post 4

February 6, 2018

Ms. Apryl Singer
Environmental Health Specialist
P.O. Box 222
1291 Greensboro Highway,
Watkinsville, GA 30677

Subject: Notice of Permit Exceedance, NPDES Permit No. GA 0050211

Dear Ms. Singer,

Please see notice of a wastewater spill on this date. This event is being communicated and posted to local media outlets and the Oconee County website.

Please call me if there are any questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Wayne Haynie, P.E.
Director

cc: Ms. Phoebe Tchoua, Georgia EPD
Mr. Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Attachments



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Public Notice of Wastewater Spill

On February 5 and 6, 2018, Oconee County exceeded permit limits for total suspended solids (TSS) in the effluent concentration of wastewater discharged to Calls Creek at the Calls Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 1100 Durhams Mill Way, Watkinsville, GA, 30677

The event was identified by plant operators after lab analyses of effluent samples. The event occurred between 8 p.m., February 5, and 1 a.m., February 6, 2018. The event appears to be the result of peak flow rates of 1 MGD or greater, exceeding the plant's design hydraulic capacity, and upsetting sludge blankets in the clarifiers. Extraordinary influent flowrates resulting from inflow and infiltration into the collection system can push the hydraulic capacity of plant structures, upsetting our regular operating volume of sludge. An estimated 72,000 gallons of partially treated wastewater reached the waters of Calls Creek. Said wastewater received biological treatment, partial settling, U.V. disinfection, and final aeration before entering the stream.

In anticipation of further winter rains and to lessen the chance of future events, we are taking steps to further reduce solids inventory, improve settling, and maximize our discharge to remove stored wastewater from the plant structures. Also, we continue our infiltration and inflow monitoring of the collection system begun in 2015 to remove ground water and storm water inflow from the system.

This spill is classified as a major spill according to Georgia EPD Guidelines.

When the event was discovered, verified and documented by lab calculations, we notified EPD and Oconee County Environmental Health Department. Water quality sampling is being performed in Calls Creek upstream and downstream from the spill. Tests for pH, temperature, fecal coliform, and dissolved oxygen, are being conducted. Signage was placed on Calls Creek at locations where residents of the area might be affected. County personnel inspected Calls Creek at several locations near the discharge, noting any effects on the stream.

For questions, please call Water Resources Department at (706) 769-3960 ref. Wastewater Spill / February 6, 2018 or email the Director at whaynie@oconee.ga.us

1291 GREENSBORO HIGHWAY ♦ PO BOX 88 ♦ WATKINSVILLE, GEORGIA 30677

PHONE: (706)769-3960 ♦ FAX: (706) 769-3997

www.oconeecounty.com

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