

On the morning of Sunday, January 3, there was an overflow at the Bayou Vista wastewater treatment plant. The wasting process overfilled the west digester basin at the plant, causing a significant overflow of untreated wastewater (raw sewage). The wastewater flowed down the driveway at the plant and into a storm sewer and certain ditches. This was a major event and failure. The District took immediate remediation efforts when the overflow was reported and the overflow stopped. The District engaged a company called MagnaFlow to perform vacor clean up, which is an industrial vacuum process followed by disinfection. MagnaFlow was on-site within hours of the event, and clean up has since been completed. There are no known public health concerns at this time. The District's Operator has reported the incident to the authorities, including the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). A copy of the District's report to the TCEQ will be posted on the District's website. It is also our understanding that residents of the District notified the Game Warden, and a Warden has investigated the site. We have no further information regarding their findings at this time.

The cause of the event was human error, specifically a valve was left open during ordinary maintenance at the plant on the morning of the event. It was not a failure of the facilities. The individual responsible for the error has been terminated from employment. The violation and investigation process with the State, namely the TCEQ, will be ongoing. All information regarding the TCEQ's (or other government agency's) investigation, findings, and enforcement provisions, if any, will be made available to the public at the earliest time possible.

All information regarding this event is public. Please contact the District office with any questions you may have.

Water Quality Noncompliance Notification

See back of Form for Guidance for Completion

Unauthorized Discharge

Reportable Effluent Violation

Other

General Information

Entity Name: Galveston County MUD #12

Telephone No: (281) 807-9500

Permittee

Subscriber

TCEQ Region: 12

County: Galveston

*Permit Number: WQ0010435002

Noncompliance Summary

Description of Noncompliance (include location, discharge route, and estimated volume of unauthorized discharge):

Approximately 30,000 - 35,000 gallons of sludge were discharged from the plant. About half of the total discharged traveled out of the plant and settled in ditches on Neptune St, Ling St, and Pompano St. while the remainder stayed inside the fence.

Cause of Noncompliance: The on-call/weekend operator became distracted and failed to turn off the wasting valve before leaving the plant.

Duration: Start Date and Time: 1/3/21 08:00
End Date and Time: 1/3/21 11:40

Or Date Expected to be Corrected:

Potential Danger to Human Health and Safety or the Environment: None known

Actions Taken

Monitoring Data: Data should be attached or submitted to TCEQ when available.

Yes No Field Measurements

Yes No Laboratory Samples

Yes No Fish Kill If yes, estimated number killed:

Actions Taken to Mitigate Adverse Effects: A vactor came out immediately and began to clean up the area around and inside the plant. Afterwards the area was treated with HTH and washed down with potable water.

Actions Taken to Correct the Problem and Prevent Recurrence: We will approach the board of directors about the possibility of installing floats that would trigger a high level alarm on this basin.

Verification Information

Information Reported By (Name/Title): Wendy Rambin / Compliance

Date Reported: 1/4/21

Signature: W. Kario

Note: If this form is being used for a 5-day written report, a copy of the form should be sent to the TCEQ Region Office, and the original to: TCEQ, Compliance Monitoring Team (MC224), Enforcement Division, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087.

* If the noncompliance is an unauthorized discharge from a wastewater collection system, use the permit number of the treatment plant to which the collection system is tied. If you are uncertain of this permit number, you may call the TCEQ Regional Office for assistance.