



MAJOR SPILL REPORT TO EPD

BOARD MEMBERS

Gary Bechtel

Chairman

Frank Patterson

Vice-Chairman

Dwight Jones

Valerie Wynn

Bill Howell

Desmond Brown

Ron Shipman

*Executive Director
and President*

790 Second Street

P.O.Box 108

Macon, GA 31202

(478) 464-5600

Fax: (478) 750-2007

MaconWater.org

EPD Watershed Protection Branch
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1152
Atlanta, GA 30334

DATE OF MAJOR SPILL: March 11th, 12th, & 15th

REPORT SUBMITTED: Monday, March 18, 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). Also, according to the National Weather Service, Macon-Bibb has received 6.03 inches of rain so far this month which has increased plant flows.

MEASURED TSS EFFLUENT RESULT: The Georgia EPD requires 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 dates reported were as follows:

3/11/2024 – 70 mg/L

3/12/2024 – 123 mg/L

3/15/2024 – 120 mg/L

VOLUME OF EFFLUENT DISCHARGED: 97 MG

The volume of flow for the dates reported were as follows:

3/11/2024 – 34.86 MG

3/12/2024 – 32.06 MG

3/15/2024 – 30.08 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:
3/11-2024 – 3/12/2/204: Aerators were immediately shut down to hold solids in the basins until the plant flows dropped, then were turned on slowly as plant conditions allowed to keep from overloading the clarifiers.

3/15/2024: A sudden surge of high flow following a rainstorm caused debris to dislodge and block off an in-line screen on a perimeter-fed clarifier, resulting in the clarifier influent briefly overflowing into the clarifier effluent channel. The screen was thoroughly cleaned and monitored closely until the flows leveled out.

SPILL STATUS: Contained



SIGNS POSTED: March 5, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS

Gary Bechtel

Chairman

Frank Patterson

Vice-Chairman

Dwight Jones

Valerie Wynn

Bill Howell

Desmond Brown

Ron Shipman

*Executive Director
and President*

CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT FUTURE SPILL: There are polymer systems set up at the end of all three aeration basins being utilized to aid in solids settling. The operators are adjusting polymer feeds and aeration rates as needed to keep the extra solids contained in the plant as much as possible. Presses are running continually when personnel and space allow, to try to make room to waste extra solids when needed. Microbial observation has been increased in frequency to ensure that the wasting rates are not too high or too low for proper breakdown. Interruptions to the aeration process are being done only when necessary. Keeping the aerators running consistently helps cut down on large groups of rags from entering the system, potentially blocking the screen, and causing solids to overflow into the effluent channel. Operations staff are monitoring the screen more frequently during high flow periods. In addition, the MWA staff is still pursuing options for plant expansion to provide additional treatment and additional volume in the event of major storm events.

790 Second Street

P.O.Box 108

Macon, GA 31202

(478) 464-5600

Fax: (478) 750-2007

MaconWater.org

MONITORING INITIATED: Monday, March 4, 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