



## MAJOR SPILL REPORT TO EPD

### BOARD MEMBERS

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

**DATE OF MAJOR SPILL:** Wednesday, March 6, 2024 & Thursday, March 7, 2024

**REPORT SUBMITTED:** Tuesday, March 12, 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).

**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:

3/6/2024 – 108 mg/L

3/7/2024 – 78 mg/L

**VOLUME OF EFFLUENT DISCHARGED:** 62.15 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:**

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.

**SPILL STATUS:** Contained

**SIGNS POSTED:** March 5, 2024

**CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT FUTURE SPILL:** Staff have been working to get the aerators back on. As many aerators are being run as possible across the plant to move the excess inventory through the treatment system and provide better solids breakdown, and they are slowed down or shut down only as necessary to hold solids in the aeration basins. We are making continual adjustments to the aeration basins and clarifiers, when possible, to try to manage the solids onsite without any more loss to the effluent. There are clarifier polymer feed systems set up on standby if needed to aid in solids settling. Wasting of excess solids is ongoing, and pressing is being done continuously if storage room is available. 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.



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**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