



September 23, 2025

Mr. Jacob Van Susteren-Wedesky
Wastewater Engineer – Environmental Management/Water Quality
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
1027 W. St. Paul Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Subject: September 18, 2025, Sewage Treatment Facility Overflow Five-Day Notification Letter
WPDES Permit No. WI-0036820-04-0

Mr. Van Susteren-Wedesky:

The following information is provided in compliance with section 9.3.1.3 of WPDES Permit #WI-0036820-04-0 and Wis. Admin. Code § NR 210.21(4) regarding sewage treatment facility overflows.

At approximately 5:30 PM on September 18, 2025, a Veolia employee observed wastewater overtopping the emergency overflow structure at South Shore Water Reclamation Facility (SSWRF). To facilitate a District capital improvement project at SSWRF, influent flow was being curtailed at three locations: (1) the influent metropolitan interceptor sewer (MIS) gates, (2) the butterfly valves downstream of the bar screens and grit basins, and (3) primary clarifiers 1-8. A discrepancy between the setpoints of the MIS gates and downstream butterfly valves resulted in the MIS gates allowing more flow through than the downstream valves were configured to allow. Wastewater backed up between those two points and overtopped an emergency overflow weir in the headworks, where wastewater would ordinarily go to primary clarifiers 1 through 4 during such a backup. However, because primary clarifiers 1 through 8 were shut down, the wastewater exited onto the plant roadway and flowed into two stormwater catchment basins toward South Shore outfalls 3 and 5. It is estimated that about 20,000 gallons of wastewater flowed into the two storm drains. Because outfall 3 was closed, the wastewater that flowed into that drain can be recovered. Outfall 5, however, was open, resulting in an estimated 10,000 gallons of wastewater being discharged to Lake Michigan between 5:30 PM and 6:00 PM.

Immediate corrective action was taken to realign the gates and valves to stop the overflow. The wastewater in the outfall 3 system is being pumped out and sent to the aeration basins for treatment. The system will then be jet-cleaned to ensure no sewage remains. This is expected to be completed by September 30.

The overflow occurred during a staff shift change, which likely contributed to the error in the gate setpoints. Veolia is performing a root cause analysis to determine why this happened and what corrective actions can be taken to prevent recurrence, which may include a standard template for operations

Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

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turnover at shift changes. This is expected to be completed by October 3. In addition, Veolia initiated disciplinary action against the employee who allowed the overflow to occur.

If you have any questions concerning this event, please contact Micki Klappa-Sullivan at (414) 225-2178 or mklappasullivan@mmsd.com.

Sincerely,



Micki Klappa-Sullivan, P.E.

Director, Water Quality Protection

Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

c:

P. Keppler, Veolia Water Milwaukee

K. Lazarski, MMSD

D. Raines, MMSD