



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY,  
SUSTAINABILITY & RISK**

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May 13, 2022

Maryland Department of the Environment  
Water Management Administration  
Compliance Program  
1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 420  
Baltimore, MD 21230-1708

Re: Report of Discharge from Sanitary Sewer at the University of Maryland

To whom it may concern:

The purpose of this correspondence is to notify the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) of discharge from the sanitary sewer system at the University of Maryland on May 11, 2022. This letter is sent in accordance with COMAR 26.08.10.05.

Location: University of Maryland, Chincoteague Hall, 4302 Chapel Lane, 7401 Preinkert Drive, College Park, MD 20742; 38°59'07.1"N 76°56'40.8"W

Owner of sanitary sewer: Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC).

Receiving water: unnamed tributary of the Paint Branch.

Volume Discharged: 400 gallons (estimated that approximately 300 gallons infiltrated into the ground)

Description of overflow location: the overflow came from a sanitary sewer system manhole located in front of Chincoteague hall

Sewer type: gravity sanitary sewer system

Impact on waters of the State: a portion of the overflow (approximately 100 gallons) entered the stormwater system via an inlet between McKeldin Library and Chincoteague Hall. This inlet is connected to Outfall 005 and discharges to an unnamed tributary of the Paint Branch.

Cause of overflow: blockage in pipe owned by WSSC.

Date/time overflow began: 05/11/2022 – 12:56 pm (approximately)

Date/time overflow stopped: 05/11/2022– 1:27 pm

Steps taken to prevent recurrence: perform preventative maintenance of sanitary sewer system; continue to closely monitor discharges in accordance with the University's NPDES permit and IDDE plan; order and maintain inventory of materials for sewage spill response.

Measures taken to mitigate impact: University staff deployed 3" sewage bypass pump and the associated hosing to divert the overflow to the adjacent manhole (MH G305). The flow, which was observed as 10 gal/min had ceased and was successful bypassed by 1:27 pm on

05/11/2022. Straw bales and sandbags were installed around the nearest storm drain to prevent flow from continuing to enter the storm drain system at approximately 1:50 pm on 05/11/2022. The affected area was restricted to pedestrian traffic using caution tape and mats were placed for pedestrian crossings. The small amount of biosolids in the immediate vicinity of the manhole were removed for disposal. Approximately 75 lbs. of agricultural lime Powdered lime was applied to disinfect any soft surfaces contacted by the sewage overflow. University staff sprayed down all hard surfaces with a bleach water mixture to sanitize walking surfaces. At approximately 6:24 pm on 05/11/2022, University staff, with the assistance of JP Sewerooter, were able to remove the blockage in the WSSC sewer line. The impacted sidewalks were reopened to the public at 7:21 pm on 05/11/2022.

Public notification method: the “UMD Alerts” system was used to notify campus students, faculty and staff of the situation. Jason Baer of the University of Maryland notified Evelyn Stavrou from the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Prince George’s County health department at approximately 3:00 pm and 3:20 pm respectively.

An incident response report and map showing the approximate extent of impact are attached. Please feel free to contact me at 301-405-3163 or [jbaer123@umd.edu](mailto:jbaer123@umd.edu) if you have any questions or need any addition information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Baer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jason L. Baer, REM  
Assistant Director  
Office of Environmental Affairs