



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

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College Park, MD 20742
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March 15, 2023

Maryland Department of the Environment
Water & Science 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 February 08, 2020. This letter is sent in accordance with COMAR 26.08.10.05.

Location: University of Maryland, Architecture Building (145 ARC), 3835 Campus Dr., College Park, MD 20742; 38°59'2.22"N, 76°56'51.612"W

Owner of sanitary sewer: University of Maryland.

Receiving water: Guilford Run via MS4 Outfall #012. The Guilford Run discharges to the Paint Branch. The receiving Paint Branch is HUC Code #020700100202; Class I Waters – Water contact recreation and protection of non-tidal warm-water aquatic life; no shellfish harvest or public drinking water supply.

Volume Discharged: Approximately 60 gallons total, of which approximately 50 gallons entered a nearby stormwater inlet and 10 gallons remained on the pavement in the adjacent parking lot. The stormwater inlet discharges to the Guilford Run via MS4 Outfall #012.

Description of overflow location: The overflow came from a manhole on the southwest side of the Architecture building facing the O1 parking lot. The overflow ran across a sidewalk and into the parking lot to the stormwater inlet in the west corner. A portion of the flow entered a stormwater inlet.

Sewer type: Pressure line into a gravity sanitary sewer system.

Impact on waters of the State: A portion of the overflow (approximately 50 gallons) entered the stormwater system via an inlet adjacent to parking lot O1. This inlet is connected to MS4 Outfall #012 and discharges to the Guilford Run. There was no observed impact to the surface water body. No biosolids were released as a result of the overflow, only clear effluent discharged from the impacted manhole.

Cause of overflow: A clog in the sewer line.

Date/time overflow began: 03/13/2023 – 04:00 pm (approximately)

Date/time overflow stopped: 03/13/2023 – 05:00 pm (approximately)

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: At the point of detection, IRU contacted the UMD Customer Response Center and requested the Pipe Services send out a representative to evaluate the area immediately. Upon arrival, IRU turned off the water usage to the Architecture building and flow had ceased by approximately 5:00 pm. At approximately 6:15pm, after determining that the Pipe Services department could not remove the clog from the system, IRU and Pipe Services contacted JP Sewer to remove the clog. At approximately 8:00 pm JP Sewer arrived with their vacuum truck and was able to remove the clog by 8:45pm. The water was turned back on at approximately 9:15pm. Lime was applied to the impacted area within the parking lot.

Public notification method: UMD Customer Response Center emailed the college community, at 5:13 pm, of the overflow and informed them the water in the building of Architecture has been turned off. They instructed the community to avoid the area around the building being impacted and to avoid vicinity. A notification that the water had been turned back on at the Architecture building was sent at 9:15 pm. UMD notified MDE of the incident, by phone, at 5:15 pm on 03/13/2023 to the emergency line; a copy of the 5-day report to MDE was posted on the UMD Department of Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk's stormwater management website:

(<https://essr.umd.edu/environmental-affairs/stormwater-management>)

Attached to this letter is the IRU report including a photo log and map showing the approximate extent of impact. Please feel free to contact me at 301-405-3163 or 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