November 1, 2019

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 November 1, 2019. This letter is sent in accordance with COMAR 26.08.10.05.

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


Receiving water: unnamed tributary of the Paint Branch via Outfall #005. 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: 525 gallons total, of which approximately 125 gallons entered a nearby stormwater inlet and 375 gallons infiltrated into the ground. The stormwater inlet discharges to an unnamed tributary of the Paint Branch via Outfall #005.

Description of overflow location: the overflow came from a sanitary sewer system manhole located in front of Chincoteague hall. The overflow ran across a sidewalk and into the grass. A portion of the flow entered a stormwater inlet, until the flow was able to be diverted using sandbags.

Sewer type: gravity sanitary sewer system.

Impact on waters of the State: a portion of the overflow (approximately 150 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. There was no observed impact to the surface water body. Over the last year, Outfall #005 discharges an average of 164,837 gallons of water (groundwater, stormwater, and permitted process water) per day. The overflow represents a fraction of a percent of the measured daily discharge from the outfall to the receiving waterbody.

Cause of overflow: blockage in pipe owned by WSSC.
Date/time overflow began: 11/1/2019 – 11:15am (approximately)

Date/time overflow stopped: 11/1/2019 – 12:15pm (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. It is noteworthy that WSSC technicians were on-site within the last several months to perform preventative maintenance on the sewer line, including cleaning and inspection.

Measures taken to mitigate impact: Sandbags were installed around the nearest stormwater inlet to prevent flow from continuing to enter the storm drain system at approximately 11:45am on 11/1/19. The affected area was restricted to pedestrian traffic using caution tape and barricades. At approximately 12:00 pm, IRU dispatched a bypass pump from the overflowing manhole to the next available manhole approximately 200 ft below, flow rates were consistently reduced during the initial 15 minutes after the bypass pump was deployed. At approximately 12:15 pm on 11/1/19, the manhole ceased overflowing. The small amount of biosolids in the immediate vicinity of the manhole were removed for disposal. Powdered lime was applied to disinfect the grass areas and a 10% bleach solution was applied to disinfect hard surfaces contacted by the sewage overflow.

Public notification method: UMD notified MDE of the incident, by phone, at 2:25 pm on 11/1/2019; the Prince Georges County Health Department was notified of the incident, by way of the CountyClick 311 reporting system, at 2:30 pm on 11/1/2019, the tracking number is 19-00094610; 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)

A photo log and map showing the approximate extent of impact are attached. 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,

Jason L. Baer, REM
Assistant Director
Office of Environmental Affairs
University of Maryland Photo Log
11/1/2019 – Sewage Overflow at Chincoteague Hall

Top Left: looking west towards Chincoteague Hall at the overflowing manhole in front of Chincoteague Hall. The impacted areas were blocked with caution tape.

Top Right: The inlet at the corner of McKeldin Library, which discharges, to Outfall 005. Sandbags were installed around the inlet at approximately 11:45 am to prevent additional flow from entering the inlet. Approximately 150 gallons of sewage entered the inlet.

Bottom Left: looking east towards McKeldin Mall, sandbags installed around stormwater inlet and UMD personnel rinsing walkway from residual sewage. Caution tape and barricades deployed to prevent pedestrian traffic.

Bottom Right: An aerial view of Chincoteague Hall depicting the location of the overflow and the impacted area.