

Kristen Graham (adpce.ad)

From: Hickle, Jeff <Jeff.Hickle@jacobs.com>
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2022 11:51 AM
To: Kristen Graham (adpce.ad)
Cc: SSOADEQ; Guy, Jan; Weeks, Greg; Vinson, Thom; Nyander, Tim; Granderson, Corey; Santellanes, Shawn; Thomas Harrington (adpce.ad); Miller, Mayo
Subject: Unpermitted Discharge Notification (Dec 15) - Paul R Noland WWTF [AFIN 72-00781, AR0020010]

Good afternoon Ms Graham,

I wanted to send notification that on Thursday afternoon (December 15th at approximately 16:55) a facility Operator discovered an unpermitted release of filter-cell backwash occurred at the Paul R Noland WWTF (AFIN 72-00781, AR0020010).

The filter-cell backwash release started at approximately 16:40 and occurred intermittently for the next 15 minutes.

An estimated 5,000 gallons, not recovered, reached facility grounds in the general vicinity between Filter-cell #1 and the process-return yard drain.

Most of the released filter-cell backwash flowed into a nearby (less than 100 feet) stormwater grate plumbed back to the facility's influent wet-well.

The spill was quickly stopped by the Operator switching all filter-cells from to manual operation which stopped the automated backwash process.

Investigation discovered a failed float switch used to prevent the backwash (waste) wet-well level from exceeding the wet-well holding capacity.

The switch failure resulted in an elevated wet-well level which subsequently triggered back-to-back (Filter-cell #1) backwashes that lead to overflow of the backwash water at the filter-cell.

Facility staff have replaced the failed float switch while also adding additional layers of incident prevention including:

1. A redundant high wet-well level float switch and
2. Programming the wet-well's level transducer to both initiate the backwash sequence but also stop backwash sequencing.

The backwash release is limited to facility grounds and has not reached any receiving waters. No adverse environmental impacts have been observed and none are expected.

Thank you and an online report has already been submitted.

CONFIRMATION NUMBER

120d910c-9fbf-472c-9958-6a2ed0a8deb4

Best Regards,

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