



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Richard E. Dunn, Director

Coastal District
400 Commerce Center Drive
Brunswick, Georgia 31523
912-264-7284

February 1, 2021

Mr. Edwin Booth, City Manager
City of Port Wentworth
305 South Coastal Highway
Port Wentworth, GA 31407
Via Email: ebooth@cityofportwentworth.com

RE: Complaint Investigation – CTS 95484
NPDES Permit GA0038814
Chatham County

Dear Mr. Booth:

This letter is in reference to a complaint regarding the City of Port Wentworth and alleged violations of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. GA0038814 and Section 391-3-6 of the Georgia Rules and Regulations of Water Quality Control (Rules). The complaint (CTS 95484) was received by the Division on January 22, 2021.

According to information in the referenced complaint, nine (9) major sewage spills occurred from the City's sewer collection system during the period of June 12, 2019 to January 16, 2021. A list of dates, locations and photographs were included with the complaint. In addition, the Division observed residual lime material on the ground at the Waffle House Lift Station (Hwy 21) during an inspection on January 26, 2021 indicating that a recent spill likely occurred at this location. Please be advised that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (Division) has no record that the City met the requirements of the Permit and the Rules regarding these spills.

The requirements for sewage spills include reporting the incident to the Division, notifying the health department, notifying local media (television, radio, and print media), posting signs, and other safeguards to protect human health and the environment. Enclosed is a copy of Georgia Rules and Regulations of Water Quality Control, Section 391-3-6-.05, *Emergency Actions* and a copy of the NPDES Permit No. GA0038814 (see Page 14, Part II.A.11., *Notice Concerning Endangering Waters of The State*) that describes the spill response requirements for a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW). Failure to comply with these requirements is a violation of the Permit and the Rules.

The Division is requesting that the City investigate these allegations and respond to this letter in writing within 10 days. The response should include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. The City's response to the allegations.
2. A list of sewage spills from the City's sewer system during the last 18 months including dates of the spills, location and cause of the spills, estimated volume, name of receiving waters, and corrective actions taken to mitigate or reduce the adverse effects.

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3. Any other information the City wishes to provide regarding this matter.

The Division will evaluate available information to determine whether enforcement action is warranted in this matter.

We urge your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at (912) 264-7284.

Sincerely,



David M. Lyle
Program Manager
EPD-Coastal District

Enclosure- Attachment A - Permit No. GA0038814
Attachment B - Copy of Georgia Rules and Regulations of Water Quality Control,
Section 391-3-6-.05, Emergency Actions