DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY,
SUSTAINABILITY & RISK

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September 30, 2019

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 a discharge from the sanitary sewer system at the University of Maryland (UMD) on September 27-28, 2019. This letter is sent in accordance with COMAR 26.08.10.05.

Location: University of Maryland, Capital One Field at Maryland Stadium, 8197 Fieldhouse Drive, College Park, MD 20742; (38° 59' 21.1806" N / -76° 56' 50.6718" W)

Owner of sanitary sewer: University of Maryland

Receiving water: Paint Branch (HUC Code #020700100202) via Outfall #003; 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 7,500 gallons of clear liquid sewage; no visible solids present

Description of overflow location: The overflow emanated from a sanitary sewer system manhole located in the walkway at the southeast corner of the stadium and flowed along the curb approximately 100 feet east on Fieldhouse Drive, where the flow entered another sanitary sewer manhole, as well as a nearby stormwater inlet

Sewer type: Separate sanitary sewer system; gravity flow

Impact on waters of the State: Approximately 7,500 gallons entered the stormwater system via a curb inlet on Fieldhouse Drive and discharged to the Paint Branch via Outfall #003; based on subsequent inspection of Outfall #003, there did not appear to be any impact to the outfall or the receiving waters; upstream and downstream water quality appeared quite similar; no odors, discoloration, or solids were observed in the outfall or the receiving waters in the vicinity of the outfall; minnows were observed in the plunge-pool where the outfall enters the Paint Branch

Cause of overflow: An unknown blockage in the pipe connecting the Maryland Stadium to the University's sanitary sewer conveyance system

Date/time overflow began: 09/27/2019 – 10:00 pm (approximately)

Date/time overflow stopped: 09/28/2019 – 1:30 am (approximately)

Date/time blockage removed: 9/28/2019 – 1:15 pm (approximately)

Measures taken to mitigate impact:

9/27/2019 10:30 pm – UMD staff placed barricades and caution tape around the overflowing manhole and the surface discharge; UMD staff investigated the sanitary sewer system to locate the source of the blockage; UMD plumbers utilized the sewer jet truck to attempt to locate and remove the blockage, while UMD Incident Response Unit (IRU) staff deployed measures to control the surface flow and minimize the discharge; UMD staff reduced water supply to bathrooms and other sources within the stadium in an attempt to reduce the flow into the sanitary sewer system

9/28/2019 12:00 am – The football game at the stadium, which started at 8 pm, ended and discharge from the manhole began to decrease significantly

9/28/2019 12:30 am – UMD's on-call plumbing contractor (JP Seworooter, Inc.) arrives on-site with a vacuum truck and begins bypass pumping from the overflowing sanitary sewer manhole to the closest downstream flowing sanitary sewer manhole

9/28/2019 1:00 am – UMD staff opened the downstream sanitary sewer manhole adjacent to the stormwater inlet and placed sandbags to divert all flow from the curb into the downstream sanitary sewer manhole; bypass pumping continues

9/28/2019 1:30 am – Discharge to the stormwater inlet ceased; bypass pumping continues

9/28/2019 10:00 am – UMD IRU staff place a gasoline-powered suction-lift pump at the overflowing sanitary sewer manhole upstream of the blockage and continue bypass pumping to the downstream, flowing sanitary sewer manhole, in order to gain access to the blockage

9/28/2019 2:00 pm – UMD plumbers are able to clear the blockage with the jet truck and restore flow within the sanitary sewer system; UMD IRU staff remove the pump and clean the hoses; UMD IRU staff use a 10% bleach / 90% water mixture in sprayers to decontaminate all impacted surfaces (the nearby stormwater inlets were sealed to prevent discharge of the cleaning agent to the stormwater conveyance system)

Public notification method: UMD notified MDE of the incident, by phone, at 1:00 am on 9/28/2019; the Prince Georges County Health Department was notified of the incident by way of the CountyClick 311 reporting system at 11:30 am on 9/28/2019; a copy of the 5-day report to MDE was posted on the UMD Department of Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk's stormwater management website:

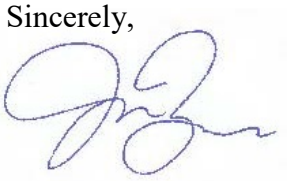
(https://essr.umd.edu/environmental-affairs/stormwater-management)

Steps taken to prevent recurrence: At the time of the event, UMD had plumbers and a jet truck stationed at the stadium, as part of normal preparations for home football games; additionally, the University had the IRU and HAZMAT team on-site during the event to address any spills or other incidents; because UMD had ensured that necessary resources were in place prior to the event, UMD was able to quickly address the situation, thereby minimizing impact to the community and the environment; UMD will evaluate the feasibility of inspecting and cleaning sewer lines at the

facility prior to the start of the season to further reduce the likelihood of future incidents

A photo log detailing the steps taken to control the release, as well as a sketch 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

PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

Client Name:	Site Location:	Project No.
University of Maryland	Capital One Stadium-Gate J Entrance	09/27/19 Sewage Overflow

Photo No. 1	Date: 09/27/19

Direction Photo Taken:

Facing overflowing sanitary sewer manhole

Description:

Overflowing sanitary manhole. Discharge began at approximately 10pm on Friday, 9/27/19. Flow rate initially approximated at 50 GPM for the initial 2.5 hours of discharge. Then was greatly reduced to 5 GPH. A total of 7,550 gallons was estimated of being discharged.

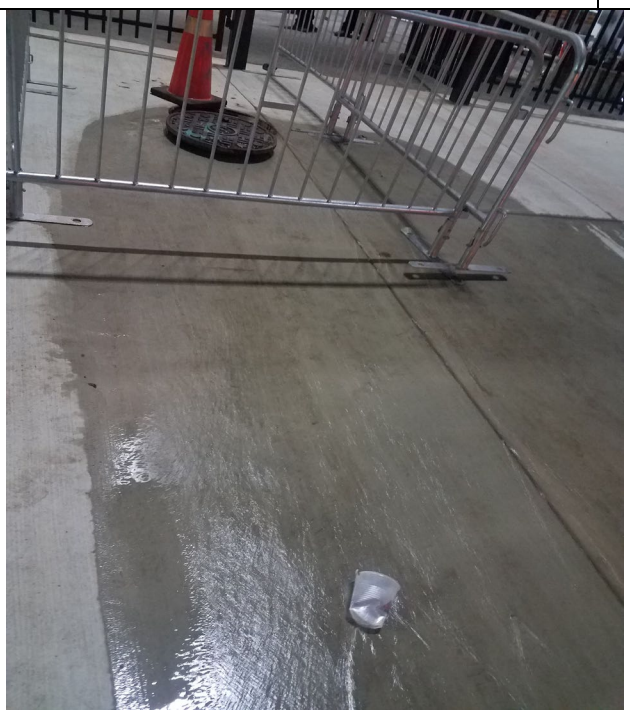


Photo No. 2	Date: 09/27/19

Direction Photo Taken:

Facing downhill of sanitary sewer manhole towards stormwater inlet.

Description:

Picture showing the pathway of the sewer discharge into the downgradient stormwater inlet. Initially, the discharge entered the stormwater system via an inlet, but was eventually redirected to a nearby sanitary sewer manhole. The photo shows UMD's sewer jet truck.

Photo No. 3	Date: 09/28/19

Direction Photo Taken:

Facing Gate J entrance/ Overflowing sanitary sewer manhole

Description:

Impacted area was cordoned off to the public to mitigate contact

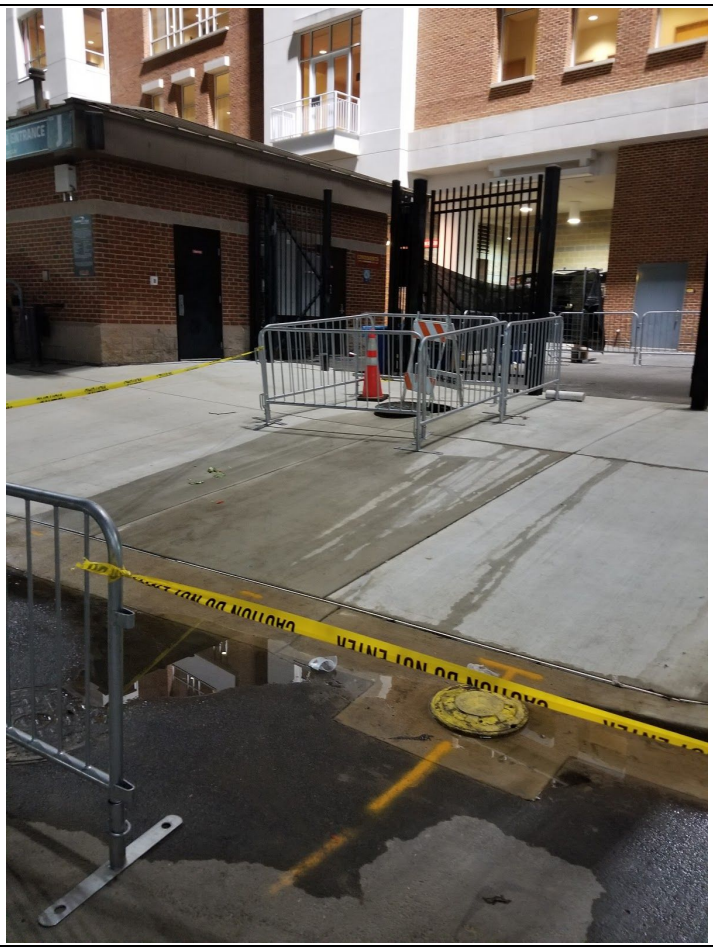


Photo No. 4	Date: 09/28/19

Direction Photo Taken:

Above Outfall 003

Description:

Outfall #003 is the receiving outfall for the drainage area that was impacted by the sewage release. Photo shows that the water discharging from Outfall #003 has no visible suds or solids and is clear

Photo No. 5	Date: 09/28/19

Direction Photo Taken:

From the foot bridge looking toward Outfall #003

Description:
Picture shows the location of the receiving outfall from the sewage release. Access to the creek is limited by topography, fencing, and heavy vegetation, thereby reducing the risk of human contact with the release.

Photo No. 6	Date: 09/28/19

Direction Photo Taken:

Facing the area impacted by the sewage release

Description:

Picture of the area impacted by the sewage overflow. The sanitary sewer manhole to which the discharge was redirected is at the topographic low point of the road. The impacted stormwater inlet is approximately 6 inches higher in elevation than the sanitary sewer manhole. The photo also shows the bypass pumping system deployed by UMD staff.

Photo No. 7	Date: 09/28/19

Direction Photo Taken:

From the northeast

Description:

Picture of the downgradient sanitary sewer manhole (where flow was eventually diverted) used during the bypass pumping, as well as the nearby, upgradient stormwater inlet that received the sewage discharge.

Photo No. 8	Date: 09/28/19

Direction Photo Taken:

From above

Description:

Picture of a solution of 10% bleach being applied to the impacted area to disinfect the surfaces.

Photo No. 9	Date: 09/28/19
Direction Photo Taken: From the south	
Description: Picture of the impacted stormwater inlet sealed with liners and sandbags to prevent the 10% bleach disinfectant solution from entering the stormwater system during the decontamination of the area.	

Photo No. 10	Date: 09/28/19
Direction Photo Taken: N/A	
Description: A rendering of the flow path taken by the sewage overflow. Indicated on the map are the stormwater inlet and the sanitary system manhole to which the discharge was redirected. The surface flow of the release was approximately 100 feet. Note that the "bolted vault" in the sketch is the downgradient sanitary sewer manhole, which UMD staff had difficulty opening in order to divert the discharge and redirect the sewage during bypass pumping.