



January 9, 2018

Memorandum

To: Mayor & City Council

From: David E. Bennett Public Works Director/City Engineer  
Justin Wagner, Utilities Manager

Re: Wastewater Treatment Plant Incident

Last night, January 8, 2018, at roughly 10:00 P.M., the wastewater treatment plant had an incident where a pipe plug came loose causing flooding in the lower level of the Biologically Aerated filtration (BAF) Building of around 5 feet. Staff responded to the incident and began pumping the partially treated wastewater back to the beginning of the plant. During pumping operations the temporary pipe came loose causing 375 gallons of partially treated wastewater to be discharged overland. The Minnesota Duty Officer was notified of the release. There isn't any public health or environmental risk related to this partially treated discharge.

A contractor was brought in to install a new plug overnight and the plant was back operating by 7 a.m. Staff and contractors began to assess components in the lower levels. Items such as valves, actuators, level sensors, and electrical outlets were submerged. At 8:00 A.M., an instruments and controls technician was on site to begin assisting with the assessment of certain components of the BAF plant. At 9:30 A.M. staff and the technician determined that a pressure transducer in each cell, a total of 10 pressure transducers, had been exposed to wastewater and was not operating properly causing some irregularities in the BAF operation.

Due to components being submerged, staff needs to expedite the replacement of these items to ensure the plant continues to operate. The City has contacted its insurance company to notify them of the loss and claim. It is preliminary estimated that the repairs will be in the range of \$200,000.

To expedite these repairs, a local emergency declaration will allow for the City to begin ordering replacement parts and contracting for this work.