



PRESS RELEASE

COMMUNITY AWARENESS DIVISION

YOLANDA FERNANDEZ, MANAGER
727-893-7550

Water Leaks

For Immediate Release:
September 12, 2017

From the City of St. Petersburg: Partially treated water leaks from holding tank at Northeast Water Reclamation Facility

St. Petersburg, Fla. (September 12, 2017) - Approximately 430,000 gallons of partially treated wastewater overflowed from a holding tank at the Northeast Water Reclamation Facility at 1160 62nd Avenue NE. The spilled water had less than the state-mandated chlorine residual of 1.0 milligrams per liter for disinfection.

The spill occurred between 4:00 and 4:35 pm on Monday September 11, 2017 during operations to hold and then re-chlorinate the water that had gone through full treatment before being released into the reclaimed water system.

While the plant was experiencing post-storm power interruptions, a faulty float sensor in the tank indicated that there was still room for additional water, but in fact, the tank was overflowing. Once workers noted the issue with the faulty sensor and detected the spill, it was stopped.

The spill was contained on the plant property and none of the water went into any water body.

The wastewater plant's biological process was disrupted causing the plant to struggle to maintain the 1.0 mg/l chlorine residual. Plant operators anticipate resolving the problem by 12:30 pm today. We are disposing the low-chlorine residual water through the injection wells at a rate of 500,000 gallons per hour as of this morning.

