



For Immediate Release

July 3, 2018

Contact:

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SEWAGE SPILL ON MARYLAND ROUTE 370 (UNIONVILLE ROAD)

As a result of a failed fitting in a cleanout manhole in the Unionville Force Main which pumps raw sewage to the Royal Oak Pump Station, raw sewage spilled over an undetermined period of time causing untreated wastewater to collect on private property, in a ditch on a farm field and in the drainage ditch along Maryland Route 370. The spill was reported by a citizen on the morning of Tuesday, July 3rd. Efforts to repair the fitting were promptly initiated and tanker trucks were called in to collect the raw sewage on the ground and to transport wastewater from Unionville to the Royal Oak Pump Station.

The Talbot County Department of Public Works notified the Talbot County Office of Environmental Health and the Maryland Department of the Environment of the incident. Due to the unknown period that the raw sewage was being discharged, the volume of water collected in the ditches was estimated to be approximately 40,000 gallons; however, for reporting

purposes, the Talbot County Department of Public Works is estimating the spillage to be 50,000 gallons. After inspection of the areas where the spill occurred, the Talbot County Office of Environmental Health found no evidence that the raw sewage entered the waters of the state. As of 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 3rd, the Talbot County Department of Public Works was working to repair the failed fitting, pumping and hauling from the Unionville Pump Station, and pumping up the standing water. Following the initial cleanup, lime will be spread over the affected areas that came in contact with the raw sewage. No agencies expect this to be an ongoing incident, and there is no danger to public recreation in the Mile River Watershed, including the Miles River.

If you have questions, please contact Dave Russ at the Office of Environmental Health, Talbot County Health Department, at 410-770-6880.