

Public Notice
Sewage Spill
Royal Oak, Maryland
March 19, 2019

On Tuesday, March 19, 2019, the Talbot County Sanitary District was notified that there was a sewer leak at a manhole that conveys wastewater from the Unionville Pump Station to the Royal Oak Pump Station (at the corner of Maryland Route 33 and 329). The leak resulted from a cracked fitting at the manhole located between Doncaster Road and North Bend Road.

The Talbot County Sanitary District estimates that approximately 200 gallons per day was lost out of the system. Estimating that the leak started about 2-weeks ago, an estimate of up to 2,000 gallons of untreated wastewater may have been discharged to the ground to the nearby creek that is part of the headwaters of the Miles River.

On March 19, 2019, the Talbot County Sanitary District reported the spill to the Maryland Department of the Environment at 11:00 a.m., and then reported the leak to the Office of Environmental Health who inspected the leak at about 2:30 p.m. In addition to contacting the regulatory agencies, the Talbot County Sanitary District worked to secure a contractor to eliminate the leak.

The Office of Environmental Health investigated the discharge of untreated wastewater and confirmed with the Maryland Department of the Environment that there was no imminent public health threat as a result of the discharge of wastewater. If the public has any questions they may contact the Office of Environmental Health at 410-770-6880 Monday through Friday from 7:30 to 5:00 or after hours by contacting the Talbot County Operations Center at 410-822-0095, who will contact the Environmental Health Specialist who is on call.

On March 19, 2019, the Talbot County Sanitary District made a temporary repair to the failed fitting, and after activating the pumps at the Unionville Pump Station, it was determined that the temporary repair held. The temporary repair will be monitored until the morning of March 20, 2019 to allow Bridges Site and Utilities to secure the required materials to make a permanent repair. Bridges Site and Utilities will mobilize and initiate construction to repair the failed fitting at about 8:00 a.m. on March 20, 2019.

The Talbot County Sanitary District would like to thank the citizen that called to report the leak. The Talbot County Sanitary District has submitted a project to the Maryland Department of the Environment for installation of a remote sensing and reporting system that will assist operators with responding to future leaks.

TALBOT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS