



**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

Surface Water Quality Bureau

**SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor**

**JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor**

Harold Runnels Building, N2050
1190 South St. Francis Drive (87505)
P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
Phone (505) 827-0187 Fax (505) 827-0160
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



**DAVE MARTIN
Secretary**

**BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary**

**TOM SKIBITSKI
Acting Director
Resource Protection Division**

Certified Mail: Return Receipt Requested

January 9, 2012

Mr. Bob Horacek, City Manager
City of Grants
PO Box 879
Grants, NM 87020

RE: Sanitary Sewer Overflow into the Rio San Jose, City of Grants (NM0020737/Terminated NPDES Permit) December 25, 2012

Dear Mr. Horacek:

Enclosed, please find a copy of the report for the force main break and the #66 Lift station sanitary sewer overflow that occurred on December 25, 2012. New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) did a follow up inspection after Surface Water Quality Bureau (SQWB) was notified by Laguna Pueblo on January 3, 2012. The follow up inspection occurred on January 7, 2012. NMED conducted this inspection on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). These inspections are used by USEPA to determine compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act (CWA).

You are encouraged to review the inspection report, correct any problems noted during the inspection, and to modify your operational and/or administrative procedures, as appropriate. Further, you are encouraged to notify in writing both USEPA and NMED regarding these changes.

Mr. Bob Horacek, City Manager

Page 2

January 9, 2013

I wish to thank CH2M Hill for their cooperation during this spill inspection. If you have any questions about this inspection report, please feel free to contact me at (505) 827-1041.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sandra Gabaldon

Sandra Gabaldón

Surface Water Quality Bureau

Cc: Rashida Bowlin, USEPA (6EN-AS), via email
Hannah Branning, USEPA (6EN-AS), via email
Darlene Whitten-Hill, USEPA (6EN-AS), via email
Carol Peters Wagnon, USEPA (6EN-WM), via email
Diana McDonald, USEPA (6EN-WM), via email
Larry Giglio, USEPA (6EN-PP), via email
District I Manager, NMED
Ground Water Quality Bureau, via email
Laguna Pueblo, via email
Acoma Pueblo, via email



Form Approved
OMB No. 2040-0003
Approval Expires 7-31-85

NPDES Compliance Inspection Report

Section A: National Data System Coding

Transaction Code	NPDES	yr/mo/day	Inspec. Type	Inspector	Fac Type
1 N 2 5 3 N M 0 0 2 0 7 3 7	11 12 1 3 0 1 0 7 17	18 &	19 S	20 1	
Remarks					
C I T Y O F G R A N T S					
Inspection Work Days	Facility Evaluation Rating	BI	QA	Reserved	
67 <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> 69	70 2	71 N	72 N	73 <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	74 75 <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> 80

Section B: Facility Data

Name and Location of Facility Inspected (For industrial users discharging to POTW, also include POTW name and NPDES permit number) CITY OF GRANTS SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW GRANTS, NM OCCURRED ON EAST SANTA FE AVENUE. SEE GPS LOCATIONS ON REPORT CIBOLA COUNTY	Entry Time /Date 1045 HOURS / January 7, 2013	Permit Effective Date Permit Terminated
	Exit Time/Date 1315 HOURS / January 7, 2013	Permit Expiration Date Permit Terminated
Name(s) of On-Site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s) Mark Duran, Project Manager, CH2M Hill, (505) 287-2908 Joseph Quintana, Operator, CH2M Hill, (505) 287-2908 Rudy Hidalgo, Operator, CH2M Hill, (505) 287-2908	Other Facility Data SIC 4952	
Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number Bob Horacek, City Manager / (505) 287-7927 City of Grants PO Box 829 Grants, NM 87020	Contacted Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection

(S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated)

U	Permit	N	Flow Measurement	N	Operations & Maintenance	U	CSO/SSO
N	Records/Reports	N	Self-Monitoring Program	N	Sludge Handling/Disposal	N	Pollution Prevention
U	Facility Site Review	N	Compliance Schedules	N	Pretreatment	N	Multimedia
U	Effluent/Receiving Waters	N	Laboratory	N	Storm Water	N	Other:

Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

PLEASE SEETHE ATTACHED DOCUMENT: "CITY OF GRANTS SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW" FOR FURTHER EXPLANATIONS.

Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s) <i>/s/ Sandra Gabaldon</i>	Agency/Office/Telephone/Fax NMED/SWQB/(505) 827-1041	Date January 9, 2013
Signature of Management QA Reviewer Richard Powell <i>/s/ Richard Powell</i>	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers NMED/SWQB/ 505-827-2798	Date January 9, 2013

City of Grants

Terminated NPDES Permit NM0020737
Lift Station #66 / 16" Force Main Break Sanitary Sewer Overflow
Spill Dates: December 25 – 26, 2012
NMED Site Inspection: January 7, 2012
NMED/SWQB Inspectors: Sandra Gabaldon, Daniel Valenta

Clean Water Act:

Section 301(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act states that *"Except as in compliance with this section and sections 302, 306, 307, 318, 402 and 404 of this ACT, the discharge of any pollutant by any person shall be unlawful."*

Federal regulations in 40 CFR part 122.21(a) Duty to Apply, states: *"Any person who discharges or proposes to discharge pollutants...must submit a complete application to the Director in accordance with this section and part 124 of this chapter."*

Findings:

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit #NM0020737 was terminated at the request of the City of Grants in approximately November 1995.

The City of Grants collection system in this area is believed to be approximately 20 years old. The force main line is made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC). The lift station has been in service for approximately 20 years as well.

First Notification to NMED:

New Mexico Environment Department, Ground Water Quality Bureau, Mr. Steven Pedro, received a telephone message from Mr. Wayne Duran, CH2M Hill which was left on December 25th, 2012, at approximately 12:30 PM. No telephone call was made to EPA at this point. There was no communication to the New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau. Acoma Pueblo was contacted at approximately 2:00 AM on December 26, 2012 via telephone.

Spill Content:

Untreated domestic sewage from the City of Grants, NM.

Spill Volume:

Mr. Mark Duran estimated that approximately 1.5 – 1.8 Million Gallons (MG) of raw wastewater was discharged into "the Rio San Jose and fields surrounding the lift station". However, upon inspection of the site by New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau, it was noted that a large amount of the 1.5 – 1.8 MG discharge was contained in a gravel pit owned by the City of Grants adjacent to the force main break. The amount of discharge to the Rio San Jose was estimated by Mr. Duran as being 10,000 to 20,000 gallons.

Chain of Events:

On the morning of December 25, 2012, Joseph Quintana, certified operator, wastewater level III, noticed puddling as he was traveling to a family function. He notified his chain of command starting with Mr. Edward Salazar, certified operator, wastewater level II, and Mr. Wayne Duran, certified, water I, distribution I, wastewater certification. He then contacted the on-call operator at the Grants WWTP, Rudy Hidalgo, certified operator, wastewater I to verify influent flow. Mr. Hidalgo stated that there was no influent flow. The alarm system on the lift station only works as a high float alarm, and because this was a force main break, no call-out was made to any of the operators.

At that time, the operators were dispatched to the site and found the force main break. They set up traffic control along E. Santa Fe Avenue and contacted an excavation crew to the site to dig up the 16" force main. However, by this time, the area was extremely muddy so they had to have the excavation team put down gravel to allow the back hoe operator to maneuver his equipment without getting stuck in the mud. Excavation started at approximately 5:00 PM.

The City of Grants has very limited spare parts on hand. The City had 18" PVC pipe and fittings rather than the necessary 16" PVC/fittings. When asked by the inspector why the city only maintained 18" pipe the Project Manager, Mr. Duran stated that he was told by previous employees that the force main was a 18" pipe. The inspector questioned Mr. Duran further regarding his knowledge of the collection system. He stated that he did have plans available to him regarding the collection system; however, he never reviewed them to verify the diameter of the pipe.

Because the City did not have the necessary parts on hand, repairs stopped. At approximately 9:30 the City of Rio Rancho, which is also operated by CH2M Hill, was contacted concerning availability of 16" pipe. At approximately 10:45 PM the City of Grants received the 16" pipe along with fittings from Rio Rancho.

To complete the repairs, the force main was had to be shut off. Because of this, the lift station began to overflow. Some of the raw sewage was maintained by a four foot bermed area just south of the lift station on city owned property. However, approximately 10,000 to 20,000 gallons of raw sewage bypassed this bermed area, traveled across private property and was discharged to the Rio San Jose located approximately 400 yards south on the west side of the lift station. (see pictures).

When the inspector questioned the operators further regarding any best management practices that might have been in place to avoid the discharge, Mr. Quintana stated that he did not put any berming along the west side of the lift station. If Mr. Quintana had placed berming along the west side of the lift station and directed the raw sewage flow, they may have been able to maintain a larger amount of sewage in the containment area to the south of the lift station.

At approximately 1:30 AM on December 26, 2012, the lift station was put back into service. The WWTP began to receive influent flow at approximately 2:40 AM on December 26, 2012.

The City of Grants does not have a written emergency plan.

Location:

The 16" force main break and the #66 lift station are along E. Santa Fe Avenue in Grants, NM.

GPS coordinates of all areas involved include:

LOCATION:	LATITUDE:	LONGITUDE:
#66 Lift Station	N. 35.13658°	W. -107.82261°
Rio San Jose Discharge Point:	N. 35.13523°	W. -107.82368°
16" Force Main Break	N. 35.13321°	W. -107.61592°
Gravel Pit Discharge Containment Pit:	N. 35.13241°	W. -107.81590°

The City of Grants collected fecal coliform samples, upstream and downstream. During the site inspection by NMED, no samples were collected due to the glacial conditions of Rio San Jose. Fecal coliform results were requested by the inspector on January 7, 2013. No data has been provided.

Current Conditions:

At the time of this inspection, the force main was fixed, the lift station was functional. The gravel pit where the majority of the sewage traveled is frozen over and appeared to be a pond of frozen ice. The containment area to the south of the lift station was also a frozen pond. The discharge location to the west of the lift station had no notable solid debris associated with raw sewage. Again, this inspection was done thirteen days after the sanitary sewer overflow.

Previous Sanitary Sewer Overflows:

NMED/SWQB investigated a spill on January 11, 2011. Approximately 28,200 gallons of raw wastewater was discharged to the Rio San Jose at Nimitz Avenue. The apparent cause of the discharge was a section a clay piping which broke. The clay pipe was capped and sealed with cement. Please see attached report.

2.

Lift station is shut down to repair pipe and starts to overflow.

1.

Pipe to WWTP breaks and discharges to old sand and gravel pit



3.

Overflow from lift station flows to the river through the cut berm.

Google Imagery 5/3/2012



Effluent flows around containment area to back of property.

Effluent travels to back of property and discharges through the cut in the berm to the river.

New Mexico Environment Department/Surface Water Quality Bureau
Official Photo Log
Photo #1

Photographer: Daniel Valenta	Date: January 7, 2012	Time: 1158 hours
City/County: Grants/Cibola		
Location: Rio San Jose; Grants, NM		
Subject: Rio San Jose – Discharge material indicated on photo.		



New Mexico Environment Department/Surface Water Quality Bureau
Official Photo Log
Photo #2

Photographer: Daniel Valenta	Date: January 7, 2012	Time: 1156 hours
City/County: Grants/Cibola		
Location: #66 Lift Station; E. Santa Fe Avenue; Grants, NM		
Subject: Discharge point into the Rio San Jose from the lift station overflow		



New Mexico Environment Department/Surface Water Quality Bureau
Official Photo Log
Photo #3

Photographer: Daniel Valenta	Date: January 7, 2012	Time: 1134 hours
City/County: Grants/Cibola		
Location: #66 Lift Station; E. Santa Fe Avenue; Grants, NM		
Subject: Containment area on south side of lift station		



New Mexico Environment Department/Surface Water Quality Bureau
Official Photo Log
Photo #4

Photographer: Daniel Valenta	Date: January 7, 2012	Time: 1233 hours
City/County: Grants/Cibola		
Location: Force Main break; E. Santa Fe Avenue; Grants, NM		
Subject: Area where 16" force main break occurred		



New Mexico Environment Department/Surface Water Quality Bureau
Official Photo Log
Photo #5

Photographer: Daniel Valenta	Date: January 7, 2012	Time: 1250 hours
City/County: Grants/Cibola		
Location: Force Main break; E. Santa Fe Avenue; Grants, NM		
Subject: Area where apparently raw effluent entered the gravel pit		



New Mexico Environment Department/Surface Water Quality Bureau
Official Photo Log
Photo #6

Photographer: Daniel Valenta	Date: January 7, 2012	Time: 1250 hours
City/County: Grants/Cibola		
Location: Force Main break, gravel pit; E. Santa Fe Avenue; Grants, NM		
Subject: Area where majority of raw sewage was contained		





SUSANA MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR

JOHN A. SANCHEZ
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Secretary
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469
Telephone (505) 827-2855
www.nmenv.state.nm.us

Grants Reports



DAVE FISHER
SECRETARY

RAJ SOLOMON, P.E.
DEPUTY SECRETARY

Certified Mail: Return Receipt Requested

February 8, 2011

Mr. Bob Horacek, City Manager
City of Grants
600 W. Santa Fe
Grants, NM 87020

Re: Major-Municipal, SIC 4952, Grants WWTP, January 11, 2011

Dear Mr. Horacek,

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) has received a report that there was a large release of untreated wastewater into the Rio San Jose on January 11, 2011.

The NMED is in receipt of the corrective action report submitted by Mr. Anthony Martinez of CH2M Hill/OMI. This letter is meant to close out the spill incident.

I wish to thank you for the cooperation extended to NMED personnel while at the spill site. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at (505) 222-9587.

Sincerely,

Sarah Holcomb
Environmental Scientist/Specialist
Surface Water Quality Bureau

Cc: NMED District 1 (via email)
Steven Pedro, NMED GWQB (via email)
Anthony Martinez, CH2M Hill/OMI, 121 Wayne Ave., Grants, NM 87020
Governor Randall Vicente, Pueblo of Acoma, P.O. Box 309, Acoma, NM 87034
Governor Richard B. Luarkie, Pueblo of Laguna, P.O. Box 194, Laguna, NM 87026
Curtis Francisco, Pueblo of Laguna, P.O. Box 194, Laguna, NM 87026
Jacinta Tenorio, Pueblo of Acoma, P.O. Box 309, Acoma, NM 87034
Diana McDonald, USEPA (6EN-WM) via email
Larry Giglio, USEPA (6EN-P) via email

Grants WWTP
Rio San Jose, Sanitary Sewer Overflow
Spill dates: January 11, 2011
NMED Site Inspection: January 11, 2011

State of New Mexico Regulations

Section 20.6.2.1203 NMAC of the New Mexico Ground and Surface Water Protection Regulations states, in part:

“NOTIFICATION OF DISCHARGE-REMOVAL:

1. *With respect to any discharge from any facility of oil or other water contaminant, in such quantity as may with reasonable probability injure or be detrimental to human health, animal or plant life, or property, or unreasonably interfere with the public welfare or the use of property, the following notifications and corrective actions are required:*
 - a. *As soon as possible after learning of such a discharge, but in no event more than twenty-four (24) hours thereafter, any person in charge of the facility shall orally notify the chief of the Ground Water Quality Bureau of the department, or his counterpart in any constituent agency delegated responsibility for enforcement of these rules as to any facility subject to such delegation. To the best of that person's knowledge, the following items of information shall be provided:*
 - i. *The name, address and telephone number of the person or persons in charge of the facility, as well as of the owner and/or operator of the facility;*
 - ii. *The name and address of the facility;*
 - iii. *The date, time, location and duration of the discharge;*
 - iv. *The source and cause of discharge;*
 - v. *A description of the discharge, including its chemical composition;*
 - vi. *The estimated volume of the discharge; and*
 - vii. *Any actions taken to mitigate immediate damage from the discharge.”*

And,

5. *As soon as possible after learning of such a discharge, the owner/operator of the facility shall take such corrective actions as are necessary to contain and remove or mitigate the damage caused by the discharge.*

The complete state regulation is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/nmac/parts/title20/20.006.0002.htm> and should be consulted for further detail.

20.6.2.2201 NMAC states in part:

“No person shall dispose of any refuse in a natural watercourse or in a location and manner where there is a responsible probability that the refuse will be moved into a natural watercourse by leaching or otherwise...”

In 20.6.4.97 NMAC, it states that:

EPHEMERAL WATERS: All ephemeral surface waters of the state that not included in a classified water of the state in 20.6.4.101 to 20.6.4.900 NMAC.

- A. *Designated uses: livestock watering, wildlife habitat, aquatic life and secondary contact.*
- B. *Criteria:*
 - a. *The use specific criteria in 20.6.4.900 NMAC.*

- b. *The monthly geometric mean of E. coli bacteria shall not exceed 548 cfu/100 ml, no single sample shall exceed 2507 cfu/100 ml (see subsection B of 20.6.4.14 NMAC).*

First Notification to NMED:

On Tuesday, January 11, 2011, the NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau received a message from Mr. John Rhoderick of the NMED District 1 Grants Office regarding a spill of sewage into a ditch along Nimitz Ave. Mr. Rhoderick reported that an old clay pipe was discharge sewage into the ditch. Mr. Robert George of NMED GWQB contacted Anthony Martinez with CH2M Hill/OMI, the operator of the wastewater treatment plant (on behalf of the city of Grants), and also notified the Laguna and Acoma Pueblo officials that same afternoon.

Spill Content: Untreated domestic sewage from the city of Grants, NM.

Spill Volume: Mr. Anthony Martinez estimated that approximately 28,200 gallons of raw wastewater was discharged into the Rio San Jose.

Duration: The discharge was discovered around 9:30am Tuesday morning. The duration of the discharge was unknown. This line was eventually capped and reinforced with concrete.

Location: At Nimitz Ave., where the road turns into a bridge over the Rio San Jose, in Grants, NM.

Cause of the Overflow: The overflow occurred from an old section of clay piping that was part of the collection system back in the 50's. The current operations staff did not know that this section of piping still existed. This section was at one point capped and sealed off from the rest of the collection system when the new treatment plant was built. Mr. Martinez did not know how the cap on the line deteriorated to allow sewage back into the piping. Mr. Martinez said that there was a blockage downstream of the manhole, which was jettied out and because the manhole was so deep, the crew was unable to see exactly what caused the blockage when it cleared. The blockage caused the water to back up into the manhole, which then overflowed through the old clay piping, resulting in the discharge to the Rio San Jose.

Current Condition: According to Mr. Martinez, the old clay piping has been capped and sealed with concrete, and the discharge to the Rio San Jose was stopped effective January 12. HTH (high test hypochlorite) was applied to the surface of the Rio San Jose to disinfect the area affected by the spill.

NMED received the spill report from CH2M Hill/OMI on January 25, 2011 (the letter was dated January 18, 2011), detailing the actions that the city of Grants/OMI took to deal with the spill, as detailed above. NMED sees this action as adequate and does not require any further response to this spill.

The Grants Wastewater Treatment Plant did have an NPDES permit at one time, but terminated that permit when they terminated the discharge to waters of the U.S., and instead obtained a permit through the NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau.

You should be aware that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has promulgated regulations at 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 122 which govern permitting and monitoring requirements regarding discharges of wastewaters. Discharges of the type described herein without appropriate NPDES permit coverage may be a violation of the federal Clean Water Act, and may result in enforcement action by USEPA.