

1/16/19

Please see the following update from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Southeast District:

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Southeast District is focused on gathering and analyzing the information surrounding the circumstances of the wastewater spill in the canal system from NW 15 Street east to the Intracoastal Waterway in Pompano Beach from Friday, January 4, 2019-Thursday, January 10, 2019. On Thursday, January 10, the wastewater spill was stopped. The Department is working with our city/county/state partners to normalize conditions as quickly as possible.

The Department's first priority is always to work with utilities to identify any releases and get them stopped. Once all necessary first response activities have been performed, the Department then focuses on investigating the situation. The Department will evaluate the information from a regulatory perspective to determine if there were any violations or if any corrective actions are needed, including solutions to avoid further spills.

DEP staff continues to monitor the situation and provide technical assistance to the City of Pompano Beach.

The Department's inspection report can be found [here](#).

The Department understands that there have been some questions regarding flushing the canal. Knowingly releasing pollutants, such as raw sewage, to surface waters, including the Pompano Canal, Lake Santa Barbara, and the Intracoastal Waterway, is prohibited by the federal Clean Water Act, Florida Statutes and Florida Administrative Code. Flushing the canal will spread higher levels of pollution through a greater part of the heavily residential and recreational waters downstream. The greatest impacts are geographically limited by the G57 control structure being kept closed. Odors, fish kills, bacterial levels and organic matter in the affected canals can be reduced by placing aerators in the canal. The more aeration, the faster improvements will occur.

In addition, water sampling of the affected canals is underway. These sampling results are submitted to the Department as part of its review of the incident and regulatory jurisdiction. Sampling results show that the bacterial levels are declining at the sampling locations. The results are trending downwards and the Department expects that to continue. Water sampling will continue until conditions normalize. The Department will advise once bacterial levels appear to have stabilized or returned to their normal level.

Please do not swim, fish, irrigate or come into contact with canal water. If you have any questions for the DEP, please email southeast.district@floridadep.gov.

Thank you.