



NORTH  
TEXAS  
MUNICIPAL  
WATER  
DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***Illicit Discharge into the Sewer System Adversely Affects Treatment Capability at NTMWD Floyd Branch Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant***

*NTMWD Personnel Working to Assess and Restore Treatment Process*

(Wylie, Texas – August 12, 2021) The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) Floyd Branch Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (RWWTP), 111 E. Buckingham Road, Richardson, TX 75081, received an unidentified material flowing into the plant causing a disruption to the treatment capability of the plant. As a result, the plant discharges into Floyd Branch ceased to meet permit requirements beginning at approximately 5 p.m. on August 11, 2021.

As of 4 p.m., Thursday, August 12, approximately 1.8 million gallons of partially treated wastewater has been discharged into Floyd Branch after the plant experienced biological treatment process failure due to extremely low pH levels of wastewater flows entering the plant. This unexpected low pH wastewater flow coming into the plant is considered illicit discharge and counteracted the processes NTMWD uses to treat domestic wastewater. Investigations and coordination began immediately to identify the illicit discharge of the low pH wastewater and is ongoing. NTMWD crews are taking all necessary steps to restore the treatment processes at the plant to achieve compliance with its state issued water quality discharge permit.

The discharge flows into Floyd Branch, which flows into Cottonwood Creek, then to White Rock Creek, and then to White Rock Lake. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the cities of Dallas and Richardson have been notified of the potential water quality impacts downstream. We continue to work closely with our partners to monitor and address the situation.

NTMWD will continue efforts to restore full treatment capabilities as soon as possible. We are working with the City of Richardson to identify the source of illicit discharge that caused the treatment disruption, and work with appropriate authorities to hold the appropriate parties accountable.

The impact to the environment is being assessed as NTMWD staff continues ongoing monitoring of the receiving stream (Floyd Branch). Sampling and monitoring will continue until Floyd Branch RWWTP is restored to normal operation.

The discharge did not impact the NTMWD potable water system; **drinking water delivered by NTMWD is safe for human use and consumption.**

NTMWD personnel have notified the appropriate local governmental officials and the TCEQ Regional Office that a spill of domestic wastewater from the Floyd Branch RWWTP has occurred. Persons using private drinking water supply wells located within 1/2 mile of the site or within the potentially affected area should use only water that has been distilled or boiled at a rolling boil for at least one minute for all personal uses including drinking, cooking, bathing, and tooth brushing. Individuals with private water wells should have their well water tested and disinfected, if necessary, prior to discontinuing distillation or boiling. The water supplied by your local municipality, whether directly through your faucet or provided to a wholesale customer, is safe to drink and may be used for personal use.

The public should avoid contact with the waste material, soil, or water in the area potentially affected by the discharge. If the public comes into contact with waste material, soil, or water potentially affected by the discharge, they should bathe and wash clothes thoroughly as soon as possible.

It's important to remember that everything that goes down the drains ends up in our pipes, pumps, and treatment plants. We encourage everyone to carefully monitor what goes down your drain. Anything other than the three Ps (Pee, Poo and Toilet Paper) can create challenges in the wastewater treatment process and impact water quality in our lakes and streams. Learn more ways to Defend Your Drains at <https://www.ntmwd.com/defend-your-drains/>.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please read the FAQ posted on the NTMWD website at <https://www.ntmwd.com/fact-sheets> or contact Kathleen Vaught, Public Relations Specialist at 972-442-5405 or by email, [kvaught@ntmwd.com](mailto:kvaught@ntmwd.com).

#### **About NTMWD**

*The North Texas Municipal Water District is a regional wholesale provider of water, wastewater and solid waste disposal services for approximately 1.8 million residents across 10 counties – a service territory covering 2,200 square miles. For more information, visit [NTMWD.com](http://NTMWD.com).*

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