

Public Waters Pollution Caused Fish Kill Investigation Reporting Form

Initial Report

One Mile Branch

(Lowndes Co.)

	Name	Affiliation	Phone	
17 WRD Staffer Reported To	Jim Page	WRD	912-285-6485	
18 Reported By	Jacob Coldren (EPD)			
19 Date/Time Reported	9/24/2022	Time	12:05pm	hours
20 Information Provided	EOC sent text to Jim Page @12:04pm. Jim Page contacted the number provided and it was Jacob Coldren with EPD. Mr. Coldren informed Mr. Page that a fish kill had been reported as a result of a potential fuel, chemical, or sewage spill.			
	Name	Affiliation	Phone	
21 Observed By	Scott Fowler	City of Valdosta	229-259-3592	
22 Date/Time Observed	9/23/2022	Time	6:00pm	hours
23 Information Provided				
	Name	Phone	Time Contacted	
24 SOC Operator # (ex. 132)		1-800-241-4113	12:04pm	hours
25 EPD Duty Officer (ERT)	Jacob Coldren	912-506-9533	12:05pm	hours
26 EPD On-Scene Coordinator				hours

Investigation

27 Describe body of water characteristics (flow, water level, color, residues, odors) Small flowing creek running near Valdosta State University. Creek had pungent fecal odor and what appeared to be brown scum on water surface in several spots.

28 Climactic conditions Sunny, 80

29 Condition of dead fish Dead <48 hours Dead >48 hours

30 Were fish still dying Yes No Distressed fish symptoms:

31 List non-fish species killed 1 frog * No monetary value assigned.

32 Describe how kill occurred Upon arrival onsite to the fish kill, WRD employees met with Scott Fowler and other City of Valdosta employees. Mr. Fowler reported that, through his investigative efforts, he felt the spill occurred from an unknown fuel/fluid that leaked from equipment parked in a parking lot near where One Mile Branch Creek crosses North Oak Street. However, based on the location of the uppermost dead fish as observed by WRD personnel, it appears the kill started just downstream of the temporary sewage line hooked up to the lift station located near the intersection of where One Mile Branch creek crosses North Patterson Street. WRD personnel assessed approximately 1000m of the 2446m kill zone. The presence of no distressed fish and live fish throughout the creek confirmed that dissolved oxygen levels were good and the threat of additional fish kills appeared to be over.

33 Investigator's conclusion Given the presence of dead fish within the affected stream reach and the proximity of the uppermost observed dead fish (71meters downstream from the repaired wastewater lift station), the data collected and my field observations during the investigation, I can reasonably conclude that sewage was a contributing factor to the fish kill (Figure 1; Photo 1). Additionally, a potential unknown second fluid may have entered the creek from the parking lot at the intersection of where One Mile Branch creek intersects North Oak Street based on the presence of absorbtion cloths and fluid mark lines (Photo 2). While I am uncertain of the potential fluid that may have spilled nor the quantity that may have entered the creek, it is feasible that such fluid could have contributed to fish mortality downstream of that spill site. However, I can reasonably conclude that any spill from the downstream fluid site (Photo 2) would not have resulted in fish dying upstream of this point. The timeframe of either event happening is unknown. Based on fish condition (e.g. fish were in a state of advanced decay), one can reasonably conclude that the kill happened at least 48 hours or more before WRD arrived.