

## Cindy Karch

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**From:** Mercy Rushing  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2019 8:53 AM  
**To:** Greg Hollen (Ghollen1@airmail.net); Jayne Lankford; Mayor Kevin White (kwwhitellc@gmail.com); Mitchell Tuck; nbigham@andrewscenter.com; Polly Jones; Sue Jones  
**Cc:** Chief Bittner; Cindy Karch; David Madsen; Doris Newman; Lynn Kitchens; Mercy Rushing; Sherry Vann; William Crump  
**Subject:** Sewer Break Notice & Update - Mercy  
**Attachments:** TCEQ Notice 2019.pdf  
**Importance:** High

Hi Mayor & City Council,

Monday, May 13, 2019 around 10:30ish in the morning, William Crump alerted me that they notice that the flow in our Wastewater Treatment Plant was a lot lower than normal. So the guys went out to look at all our main sewer lines and found where the problem was, which was off Hwy. 69 South just past the Sevenants property on the right hand side of the road just before the overpass going toward Tyler. After notifying me, following protocol William Crump immediately contacted TECQ and alerted that we had an 18 inch main sewer line break and went over with TCEQ what actions needed to be taken to start getting the problem solved. Attach is the Public Notification from TCEQ that we need to publish in the Wood County Monitor and place on our City Website immediately. **See attached notice information from TCEQ concerning Mineola's sewer line break and discharge that occurred due to (we suspect) weather.**

TCEQ did mention that this is not an isolated incident it's been happening in several other issues due to the heavy rain that everyone is experiencing which is causing sewer/water pipe breaks such, Tyler, Longview, Marshall etc. William had to order equipment and materials as far away as Ft. Worth, due to shortage of resources (supply and demand right now) so that we can begin work as quickly as possible to solve our issue.

The Wood County Monitor has been in touch with me yesterday about the sewer line break and I give them the necessary information they need based on the facts given to me by William Crump and TCEQ.

I want the Mayor and City Council to know that our guys and our public works director, William Crump are working hard to get this situation resolved, however they also had to wait on resources to complete and finish this work. I know that Monday our water guys worked all day till 8 to 8:30 p.m. placing pumps from one man hole to another to divert the wastewater flow from spilling any more into the creek (once we found the sewer break). I did go to the site yesterday with our emergency local coordinator, David Madsen along with Curt Myers to check out the location, site and watch our water guys working. Please know we are doing everything per TCEQ requirements and we are also making sure that our guys are safe while taking care of this problem.

**As for the cost of this emergency, we are not sure at this time but it could be anywhere from \$30,000.00 to \$150,000.00 but thanks to the Mayor and Council for their foresight we currently do have over \$200,000.00 in our water investment account put aside for emergency situations. Right now, we will wait to see what the total cost will be and we may have enough money in our water account budget to take care of this,**

**however after we get final numbers we may need to go to Mayor and City Council to ask permission to use the water investment account to take care of this emergency work.**

I will be sure and let you all know when the problem has been solved and work is completed.

**Sincerely,**

**Mercy L. Rushing, PCED, CTE**

**City Manager, City of Mineola &**

**Executive Director Mineola EDC**

[mrushing@mineola.com](mailto:mrushing@mineola.com)

903-569-6183 (w)

903-245-8505 (c)

[www.mineola.com](http://www.mineola.com)

[www.mineolatxedc.com](http://www.mineolatxedc.com)

**Attention Public Officials (Appointed, Elected and Employees)**

Please note that any correspondence, such as email or letters, may become a public record and made available for Public/media review. Also, a "Reply to All" of this e-mail could lead to violations of the Texas Open Meetings Act under the government code. Please reply only to the sender

# Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

## Public Notification Form for Wastewater Discharges

### Information about the Discharge

An unauthorized discharge or spill of wastewater has occurred from:

Wastewater Treatment Facility: \_\_\_\_\_ Collection System:   X  

Facility Name: City of Mineola

Person to contact for information: Mercy Rushing 903-569-6183

Location of spill(s): *South Hwy 69 and Loop 564*

Estimated date and time of spill(s): 5-13-19 thru 5-14-2019 (24hrs)

Estimated volume of spill(s)(number of gallons): 200,000 Gals

Type of Spill (domestic, industrial, other): Domestic

Description of the area potentially affected, including down gradient and lateral distance from spill(s) site: Wooded area (Out of Town)

Suspected cause of spill(s): Heavy rain washed out foundation, causing sewer pipe to break.

### List of actions taken including but, not limited to:

Notification of:

Appropriate local government officials:   Yes   TCEQ Regional Office:  
  5  

Containment of spill: Plugged and By-Pass mode

Increased monitoring of water supply systems: Yes

Initiation or completion of cleanup activities: Yes

## **If the Wastewater Spill meets the following conditions:**

1. The spill is 50,000 gallons or more where one or more of the following conditions also exists:
  - (A) the spill occurs within 1/2-mile of a public or private source of drinking water;
  - (B) the spill occurs within 1/2-mile of a private drinking water well which is located within 1/2-mile of a public water supply well;
  - (C) the spill occurs within 1/2-mile up-gradient of a surface water intake of a public or private source of drinking water;
  - (D) the spill occurs in an active groundwater recharge area;
  - (E) the spill occurs up-gradient and within 1/2-mile of a karst terrain or shallow alluvial well that is a source of drinking water; **OR**
2. The spill is 100,000 gallons or more.

## **Ensure the notice contains the following precautionary statements:**

1. Persons using private drinking water supply wells located within ½ mile of the spill 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.
2. Persons who purchase water from a public water supply may contact their water supply distributor to determine if the water is safe for personal use.
3. The public should avoid contact with waste material, soil, or water in the area potentially affected by the spill.
4. If the public comes into contact with waste material, soil, or water potentially affected by the spill, they should bathe and wash clothes thoroughly as soon as possible.

