



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Contact: Steve Frank  
Phone: 303-286-3465  
Cell: 303-957-7459

## **QUICK RESPONSE CONTAINS MAJOR WASTEWATER SPILL**

DENVER, April 23 — A quick response today by work crews at Metro Wastewater Reclamation District helped to contain a major sewage spill into the South Platte River near the treatment plant site at 6450 York Street in Denver.

Storm-related flows caused debris to come into the plant and temporarily block large screens that filter the water at the beginning of the treatment process.

Employees put bypass pumping in place immediately to reroute incoming wastewater past the plugged screens.

Emergency activities are ongoing as the facility returns to normal operations. An investigation is underway.

“We are cleaning up now,” said Director of Operations and Maintenance Steve Rogowski.

Water quality assessments have been conducted, and water quality scientists say they see no apparent negative impact on wildlife.

Adams County officials and downstream water users, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have been notified. CDPHE officials were on site this afternoon.

The Metro District serves 1.6 million people and most of metro Denver. It collects and treats about 140 million gallons of wastewater a day at the Robert W. Hite Treatment Facility, which is about five miles northeast of central Denver. The plant is the largest wastewater treatment facility in the Rocky Mountain West.

Formed under Colorado law in 1961, the Metro District provides wholesale wastewater transmission and treatment service to 59 local governments, including both cities and sanitation districts in metropolitan Denver.

Metro Wastewater Reclamation District representatives will be available until 8:00 p.m. at the Metro District Administration Building at 6450 York Street. For more information, contact Public Information Officer Steve Frank at (303) 286-3465.

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