



**CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD**

WATER AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT
WATER AND WASTE DIRECTORATE

Richard Nell

Water Quality Improvement Programme Lead
Catchment, Stormwater & River Management Branch

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9 July 2020

OUTA
318 Oak Avenue
Randburg

For the attention of: Ms Andrea Korff
via email: andrea.korff@outa.co.za

Dear Madam,

DIEP RIVER / MILNERTON LAGOON
YOUR REF: L9/BD/04

We hereby acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 9 July 2020 received by email.

Please find detailed below our response to your letter concerning the complex challenges faced with regard to the current state and pollution of the Diep River / Milnerton Lagoon. Please note that any failure on the part of the City to address issues raised in your letter does not indicate concurrence therewith.

In response to your letter, we reply (as per your number references) as follows:

- Ad 5:

The City's Wastewater Branch did report that OUTA's independent sampler was caught trespassing on the Potsdam Wastewater treatment plant site (Potsdam WWTW) on the afternoon of 8 July 2020 and was escorted off-site after refusing to meet with plant management in their office, so that management might explain protocols around access to the site to undertake water sampling. The City's staff has reported a different version of events, as per the attached incident report.

- Ad 6:

Sample point "PDA" is the outfall weir from the final pond discharging from the Potsdam WWTW on the eastern bank of the Diep River, and this can only be legally accessed via the main entrance of the Potsdam WWTW. While sample point "PDC" can be taken from either the western or eastern bank of the Diep River, again the eastern bank can only be legally accessed via the main entrance of the Potsdam WWTW. Similarly, the

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western bank can only be legally accessed through the main entrance to the Table Bay Nature Reserve, Rietvlei Section entrance off Sandpiper Crescent in Flamingo Vlei. The fact that no signage or fencing exists should not detract from the fact that the sampler had trespassed onto City land without permission irrespective of the land registration type.

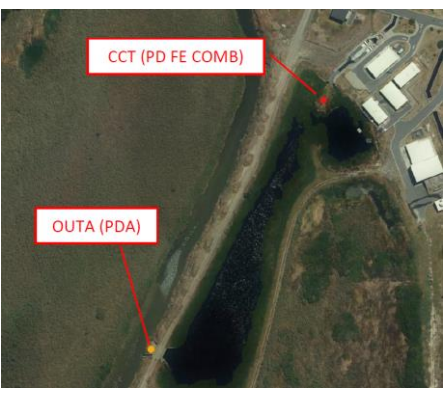


- Ad 7:

The incident report received from City personnel disagrees with the sampler's version of events. It should be noted that the Potsdam WWTW is an industrial site with strict health & safety protocols, therefore it is understandable that the works and security personnel would react decisively to finding a trespasser on the site. In fact the sampler was invited to the Plant manager's office so that the protocols to come and take samples legally could be explained to him, an offer which he declined.

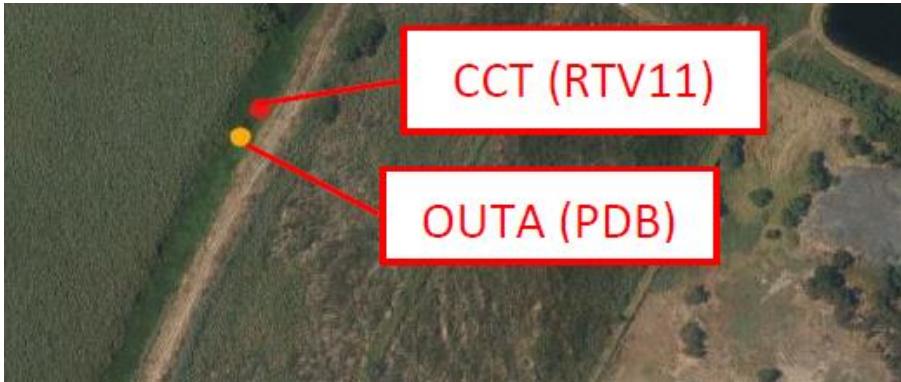
- Ad 8:

The results are contradictory for sample point "PDA" as the location of the sample point with the City's FE point cannot be compared (refer to plan below).

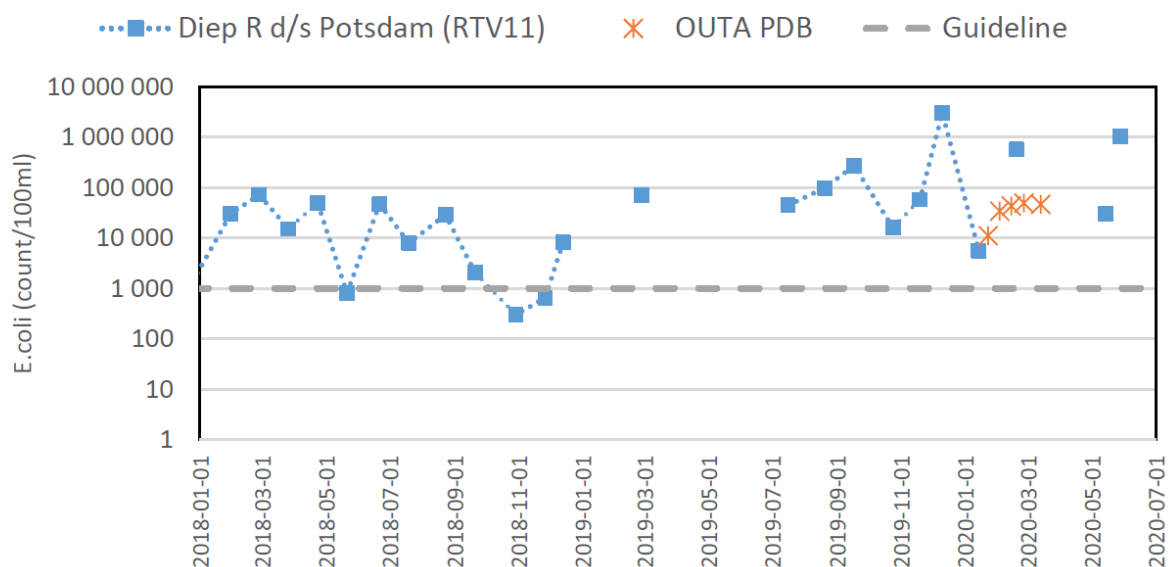


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In fact the City concurs with OUTA's results for Sample point PDB, please see below.



Water quality of the Diep R d/s of Potsdam: CCT (RTV11) and OUTA (PDB) *E.coli* test results



- Ad 9:

The City have no issue with the right of OUTA to conduct independent sampling and water testing as long as these practices are undertaken lawfully and with the necessary authorisations.

- Ad 10:

The City understands the reason for OUTA conducting independent water tests, and also seeks to regain the public's trust and to improve the water quality in the Milnerton Lagoon and across the entire City.

- Ad 11, 12, 13 & 14:

The City is willing to accommodate OUTA with access to various sites to undertake their independent sampling and thereby ensure the health & safety of OUTA's vendors on restricted areas.

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Should you have any further queries in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact Richard Nell, the City's Water Quality Improvement Programme Lead.

Yours sincerely,

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RICHARD NELL

WATER & SANITATION HEAD OFFICE

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