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Conditions improving after sewage spill in Nokomis

Conditions are improving at the site of a sewage spill that occurred last week at Sunset Avenue and Laurel Road in Nokomis. The spill into a stormwater retention pond was caused when a 6-inch force main cracked under a 32-inch concrete storm pipe. Sarasota County Utilities crews have replaced the damaged pipe, vacuumed the site and hired a contractor to remove fish killed by the spill. Samples that have been pulled on a daily basis from the pond and inlets west of U.S. 41 indicate that coliform bacterial counts are returning to normal.

According to Utilities Manager Verne Hall, flow from the break was stopped by 12:30 p.m. Dec. 22 after an estimated 250,000 gallons of waste spilled into the retention pond. All state agencies have been notified, and signs posted by the Sarasota County Department of Health will remain in place until water samples return to acceptable levels.

For more information, or to report sewer or water main breaks, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000. "We're asking people to direct those calls to the Call Center to ensure we get information to the proper personnel in the most timely manner possible," said Hall.

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