

INCIDENT TYPE:

CATASTROPHIC FAILURE OF CONCRETE TANK

anglianwater

What happened

In September 2006, Anglian Water suffered a sudden and catastrophic failure of a concrete tank at a sewage treatment works in Lincolnshire. The tank was operated as a sequenced batch reactor and contained around 600 cubic metres of aerated sewage at the time of collapse. The tank was built in 2004 and put into operation 18 months ago.

Construction of the tank used pre-cast concrete panels, post tensioned with unbonded internal cables. The tank walls were designed and constructed by "A Consult".

Fortunately, no injuries were sustained as a result of the incident, which has been reported to HSE as a dangerous occurrence.

Lessons learnt

- The reason for the tank collapse has not yet been determined and investigations are ongoing. Other similar tanks in use in Anglian Water are being checked.
- This information is being circulated to other water companies to highlight what could have been a disastrous scenario.
- If you have suffered similar failures or your checks reveal any problems, please let us know.



ACTION TO TAKE

If you think that this type of tank may be present on one of our or Scottish Waters sites, please inform Mark Innes of SWS Health and Safety Department of its location.

If you believe we are currently designing or installing such a tank please also contact Mark.

Our first priority is to identify tanks of similar construction, please assist with this request and help to prevent a similar Catastrophic Failure.

regards,

Bob Cummins
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