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Puerto Mar del Plata: Following the toxic spill, the Provincial OPDS urges that measures be taken

January 18, 2019 PORT COMMUNITY

The OPDS sent a note demanding that the head of the Consortium, Martín Merlini, fulfill his duties to control the spill and report "the measures they will take with the company's other tanks." It was found that the structure that held one of the waste tanks at the former Moliendas del Sur, a company abandoned by its owner in 2014, had collapsed.

The Buenos Aires government, through its environmental policy department, has requested that Martín Merlini, president of the Mar del Plata Regional Port Consortium, provide information on the measures he will take to contain the toxic waste spill last weekend.

The spill at the abandoned plant

The incident was noticed by lifeguards working on the Port's beaches when, upon arriving at their work stations at 8:00 a.m., they noticed a strong, nauseating odor coming from the storm drain water. Upon approaching, they noticed a noticeable yellowish hue and notified the Naval Prefecture.

According to the reconstruction carried out by this media outlet, it was confirmed that in the previous hours, the structure supporting one of the waste tanks at the former Moliendas del Sur, a company abandoned by its owner in 2014, had collapsed. In fact, it is a 40,000-liter tank whose interior ended up in the surrounding area and in the sea through a storm drain.

The environmental impact is presumed to be significant, since in addition to its large volume, the liquid, presumably rotten fish oil, contains extreme acidity and heavy metals, according to port sources who spoke to La Tecla Mar del Plata. The concentration of the liquid and the sunlight shining on the tanks make them extremely acidic, and this acidity makes them corrosive, making the environmental impact even more significant.

On Monday morning, the storm drain continued to drain water onto the beach, with polluting liquids adhering to the sand. This also indicates the existence of illegal connections. Since it is presumably a storm drain, it shouldn't be discharging liquids as there hasn't been significant rainfall for several days. Furthermore, the images taken show the presence of floating rotten grease in the storm drain, originating from the area's treatment plants.

OPDS Notice

Through a notification notice published by Ahora Mar del Plata, the Waste Department of the Provincial Agency for Sustainable Development (OPDS) requested Merlini "provide information" about a spill "of the contents of one of the tanks belonging to the Moliendas del Sur company." The spill, reported by LaTeclaMardelPlata, occurred on Sunday the 12th, and part of the waste ended up in the sea.

In the document, the OPDS demands that Merlini "report on the measures taken to control the rollover and the measures they will take with the company's other tanks."

He also describes the situation at Moliendas del Sur, which has been in bankruptcy for about three years: "No activity has been observed inside the plant" and "200-liter capacity drums (about 400) were found stored outdoors, several of which were severely corroded and at risk of collapse," he says.

"Having explained the above, I await the aforementioned protocol proposal and I must remind you that the timeframes imposed by the courts are passing within the framework of File No. MP-15654-2018 of the Civil and Commercial Court No. 10, which governs the

bankruptcy proceedings of the company Moliendas del Sur," he states.

And finally, the note signed by the Director of Waste, Javier Hernán Argilla, asks Merlini: "We request that you send the requested information, as you had previously promised, as soon as possible."

Obtained from nuestromar.org

[See original note](#)



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