

## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Hull:



The Sewer Department operates as an enterprise account and as such is required to raise all revenue to cover operating expenses. These revenues are raised through sewer use fees and permit receipts. In 2016, the average flows at the treatment plant were approximately 1.46 million gallons per day, with a total flow for the year of 532 million gallons of wastewater that was treated and discharged.

Woodard & Curran, an integrated engineering, science, and operations company that serves public and private clients locally and nationwide began its second year as our contract operator of the treatment plant and collection system.

Major electrical and generator system corrective and preventative maintenance tasks were completed this year including ARC FLASH [electrical short-circuit/current] upgrades; coordinated with HMLP. Refurbishment of the rotary drum thickener and repairs to the Above Ground Sludge Storage Tank were also performed for more efficient sludge processing.

Odor control was a major focus during the year. There were process changes to bypass primary clarifiers and gravity thickeners during the warmer months to significantly reduce odors around the plant. We also installed wet well aerators at all pump stations to reduce wet well cleaning frequency, which also helped decrease odors.

Improvements to plant SCADA computer system allowed for better surveillance and remote monitoring of the plant and remote pump stations functionality. A number of pumps and their associated piping at the plant as well as at the pumping stations were overhauled to add to their efficiency and to extend their useful life.

There was a major safety audit conducted that led to improved air quality monitoring in the headworks among other things. A new influent mechanical screen was installed and there was an overhaul/repair to grit classifier system.

Woodard & Curran held interactive training sessions with other town departments that included professional training in confined space entry, rescue and retrieval. A “mock” high flow management drill was also conducted to update the high flow management and emergency response protocol for weather related emergencies.

Each year over 1,200 tests of the performance of the treatment plant are submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to verify that the Plant is in compliance with its discharge permit.

As always, “flushable” wipes and cooking grease continues to be a major problem in the sewer system. The presence of these materials in the system often leads to business and/or residential back-ups and cost a lot of money to remove. The money spent on these issues takes funding away from other, often more important issues that need to be resolved for continuity of operations. Please read the newsletter that is included in each sewer bill to find helpful hints on ways to decrease your possibility of experiencing a sewer back-up as well as tips and pointers as to what you should and shouldn’t introduce into the municipal sewer system.

We are always looking at ways of increasing our efficiencies in the system and working on adding or restoring redundant systems to help aid with high flow volumes in the system.

In December, longtime Sewer Commissioner John Struzziery was hired to fill the position of Director of Wastewater Operations. He holds a Master’s Degree in engineering and is intimately familiar with the Hull Plant due to his years serving as a member of the Permanent Sewer Commission as well as having over forty years of direct engineering experience with wastewater treatment and collection systems during his career. We welcome John and know that his experience and knowledge will help improve efficiencies and operations at the plant.

I’d like to thank Woodard & Curran for all of their hard work over the past year as well as the members of the Permanent Sewer Commission: John Struzziery, Louis Collins, Rick Matilla and Ed Babcock for their tireless contributions to the Town.

Finally, a special thank you to the office staff at the plant, Carol O’Connor and Terri Berardinelli for all of their hard work and never ending diligence that kept things moving smoothly during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Dow, Director of Public Works