



Sewer Works

Newsletter of the Hull Sewer Department
Fall 2022

Operations Message



50 Years of Clean Water

It has been fifty years since the passage of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Anyone in this area who was around at the time remembers that Boston Harbor was one of the most polluted water bodies in the country. Hull beaches would often get littered with debris discharged from Boston and surrounding communities. Much progress has been made in Boston and other major cities throughout the country. The Deer Island treatment facility is a showcase and

notable example of what can happen to turn a polluted harbor into a thriving resource for boating, fishing, swimming, and aquatic life. Tremendous improvements can be seen in the waters off Hull and Boston Harbor because of these efforts.

Hull was one of the early leaders on the South Shore to take advantage of the funding that became available by the CWA and was fortunate to receive one of the early grants, funded at 90 percent to construct much of our sewer system and wastewater treatment facility. Today, we continue to upgrade and improve our investment knowing this is a long-term need that cannot be neglected. We know it is our responsibility to maintain our system and provide the cleanest water possible so that we, and generations from now, can all enjoy the most valuable resource of why we all live in Hull.

The next fifty years will continue to show marked advancements in technology that will likely change what gets upgraded and changed out as part of the next major upgrade in our system. Focus will also be on taking measures in adapting to climate change primarily related to sea level rise and by building resiliency to protect the facility. We're proud to be doing our part.

Let us celebrate 50 years of clean water!

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The Treatment Plant Operators

Woodard & Curran is the contract operator that performs the operations and maintenance of Hull's Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Town hires contract operators for 10-year terms. Woodard and Curran are in Year 8 of their contract. The contract operators submit monthly reports on the operation and maintenance of the facility to the Sewer Department. These monthly reports can be found on the Sewer Department's website under Contract Operator Monthly Reports. Look and see more of what is involved in operating the facility and sewer system.

Winter Closings

If you close your property over the winter, or leave it unattended for an extended period, especially in cold weather, be sure to winterize your plumbing systems to prevent freeze ups and unnecessary water and sewer repairs and associated high bills.



Grants Update:

- **FEMA Coastal Resiliency Berm:** A grant application is being prepared to submit to FEMA in December. If awarded, this 90 percent grant funded project will protect the treatment facility from coastal storm flooding with a perimeter vegetated earthen berm and concrete wall.
- **FEMA Electrical Retrofit:** Our Electrical Retrofit Project funded by a FEMA grant in the amount of \$414,000 will be completed as part of the Influent and Control Building Upgrades project.
- **Pump Station 9 at Pemberton Point:** We were granted \$2M in Congressionally Directed Spending. The project design is complete and the plans to bid are pending review by the EPA as the administering agency.
- **Gap III Energy Grant:** We expect to hear soon from the Department of Energy Resources for a grant of \$90,000 to replace influent piping, valves, and pumps which would increase capacity and efficiency, reducing our energy use by 20 megawatt-hours per year.



Projects Update:

- **WWTF HVAC Upgrades:** Contractors are nearing completion of major project milestones such as the new mechanical room and laboratory, pictured above.
- **Influent Process, Secondary Treatment, and Control Building Upgrades:** In the process of issuing the Notice of Award to the Contractor who will begin submittals and procuring equipment, to mobilize on-site in the Spring.
- **Roadway Construction:** Inspecting sewers as part of ongoing maintenance.
- **Ocean Outfall Rehabilitation:** Design is complete and ready to go out to bid. We are working out timing this project around marine construction restriction windows for late Summer 2023.

Sewerology: This edition of Sewerology we discuss Infiltration and Inflow (I/I):

Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) is excess water that flows into sewer pipes from groundwater and storm water. Groundwater (Infiltration) gets into sewer pipes through holes, cracks, pipe joint and faulty connections. Storm water (Inflow) flows into sewers via illicit sump pumps, roof drains, foundation drains, and storm drain connections or holes in manhole covers. Extra water in the sewer system ends up at the treatment plant where it must be treated like sewage, which equals higher treatment costs. In extreme storm events it also contributes to sewer system overflows into homes and waterways negatively impacting the public health and environment. The Sewer Department conducts sewer system evaluation surveys (SSES) to detect I/I. This includes CCTV inspections, smoke testing and dye testing of sewer pipes, drains and connections. If an issue is detected, the Town works to fix the problem in a timely and effective way.

