



Sewer Works

Newsletter of the Hull Sewer Department Fall 2023

Operations Message

We continue to make progress on many of our capital projects. The HVAC Project will be closed out in November and is working nicely. Finally, after ten years with only limited HVAC, we have a complete and working system throughout the treatment facility. The Influent Upgrades Project is moving forward and is currently underway at the Plant. The Outfall Assessment and Rehabilitation Project has been awarded and will get underway soon, working throughout the winter. See the sidebar to the right on the special funding we received for this project.

In the last newsletter, we made mention of looking at the collection system. Our new Assistant Director, Tom Molinari, who has previous experience as an Assistant Town Engineer in Hingham and Marshfield, has begun to categorize and prioritize the collection system needs. There has been significant investigations, assessments, and rehabilitation already, and Tom is reviewing this information to focus on the most critical and vulnerable parts of the collection system, while also assisting on most of the other capital projects.

In anticipation of the Nantasket Avenue Seawall Reconstruction Project, between Point Allerton Avenue and Fitzpatrick Way, we relined about 1,000 feet of the sewer pipe to enhance its structural integrity knowing that the new wall construction may impose additional loading on the pipe.

While we try to get ahead of some projects, we are sometimes faced with urgent situations that arise. We just recently learned that the Control Building's Roof will need to be replaced. We are in the process of understanding the scope of this discovery and will update you in our next newsletter.

And, last, but certainly not least, we would like to wish all the Hull residents a wonderful holiday season. Please remember to follow these tips to avoid any sewer back-ups during this time:

- Wipe off all cooking grease and oils into the trash. Do not put them down any of the drains in your home.
- And, please, even if wipes say they are "flushable", dispose of them in your trash; do not flush them down your toilet. More sewer back-ups are caused by a build-up of these wipes in the sewer lines.

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MassDEP Commissioner Visits Hull's WWTF



MassDEP Commissioner, Bonnie Heiple (third from left), and her staff visited the WWTF on September 22nd. The MassDEP visited sites during Climate Week that have done great work in making their facilities more energy-efficient and climate-resilient. The MassDEP provided grant money for the Influent Control Upgrades Project which started at the WWTF this year. We have also submitted an application to the DEP for an Asset Management Grant which would allow us to conduct town-wide sewer lateral inspections to view the conditions of the town's sewer pipes.

Ocean Outfall Rehabilitation Project

Plymouth County awarded the Town of Hull \$986,803 in ARPA funding for the Ocean Outfall Rehabilitation Project which is estimated to be completed by Spring 2024.

Pictured Below (from left to right) are: Plymouth County Commissioner Jared Valanzola; Town Manager Jennifer Constable; Select Board Member Brian McCarthy; Town Treasurer Eileen White; and Sewer Commission Chairman Rick Mattila. Picture is courtesy of John Struzziery.



Projects Update:



Influent Process and Control Building Upgrades Project:

This project will replace and upgrade major influent and control building systems including the grit system, the influent pump system, and the electrical system as well as provide structural upgrades to the Control Building. This project is funded by the FEMA Resiliency Retrofit Project Grant, the MassDEP GAP III Influent Pump Efficiency Improvements Grant, as well as the \$9.5M Capital Improvements/Plant Upgrades Bond approved at the June 2020 Town Meeting. This project began in the Spring of 2023.



Ocean Outfall Rehabilitation Project:

This project will extend diffusers above the ocean bottom and remove accumulated sand, gravel and sea growth from the Outfall Pipeline. This pipeline was installed 44 years ago. This is a priority project to ensure reliability, public health, environmental integrity, and restoration of outlet capacity since Hull's WWTF serves all of Hull and portions of Hingham and Cohasset. Plymouth County awarded the Town of Hull \$986,803 in ARPA funding for this project. It is scheduled to be completed by Spring 2024.



Pump Station 9 Replacement Project:

Pump Station 9 is located across from Hull High School, in the municipal parking lot for the Hull Ferry. It was constructed in the 1970s. This project will replace the current station, which is well beyond its useful life, with a new station that meets all current codes and addresses climate change/resiliency measures. (The image on the left is a rendering of the new Pump Station 9). The Town of Hull was awarded \$2M in Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) this year which will support the construction phase of this project. This project is currently in the bid phase with construction planned for Spring 2024.

The holidays are fast approaching.
Please remember: Don't Put
Cooking Grease Down the Drain!
It can cause sewer back-ups.



Low Pressure Systems

The Sewer Department recently completed an assessment of the Low Pressure Sewer System in the Rockaway/Straits Pond Area of town. This system was installed in 1996/1997 and the assessment was conducted to evaluate the mechanical conditions of the system today. It was determined that the system was in satisfactory condition, and identified some maintenance and perhaps replacement of some equipment.

Properties on the low pressure system utilize individual grinder pumps which deliver their wastewater to a system of pressurized pipes that serve an area of the town. This system is used where gravity sewers are not cost-effective or not feasible due to topography or excessive rock. Residences with grinder pumps should care for it like any other home appliance. They should never turn off power to the unit; never cover the pump or put heavy items on it; always keep it accessible in case there is need for it to be serviced; never attempt to service the grinder pump themselves; and, be very careful when working on digging in their yard and especially near their grinder pump. Just as in sewers, keep grease, oils and wipes out of the system.