



Sewer Works

Newsletter of the Hull Sewer Department Spring 2023

Operations Message

We hope this message finds you well as we enter Spring 2023 with sunnier and warmer days on our beautiful peninsula. We are excited to share with you the latest updates about our efforts to keep the Hull Sewer System running smoothly.

Firstly, we cannot stress enough the importance of only flushing toilet paper down your toilets. Flushing anything else can cause serious blockages and backups in your sewer service or in our system, resulting in inconvenience and expensive repairs for everyone in the community.

Now, let's talk about some of the exciting projects we have been working on. Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic and long lead times for materials, we have made remarkable progress in the past year alone. We are thrilled to report that we are wrapping up the HVAC project and kicking off two other major projects, the Influent/Control Building Upgrades and Pump Station 9 Replacement.

But that's not all! We have also applied for a grant to create a vegetative berm and flood barrier wall around the sewer plant parcel. This project is not only going to protect the plant from flooding but also incorporate nature-based solutions and green infrastructure to provide enhanced flood protection.

We are continually striving to make the Hull Sewer System more efficient, reliable, and resilient. We are grateful for your ongoing support and trust in our efforts to maintain and enhance our system.

Thank you for being a part of our community,

John J. Struzziery, P.E., Director of Wastewater Operations
Brian Kiely, P.E., Assistant Director of Wastewater Operations
Mike McDonough, Facility Coordinator
Cathy Joaquin, Finance and Administrative Coordinator



Above - Portable Pumps and Generator

Below - New Boiler Room and Piping



Grants Update:

- **Powering Up:** Thanks to a generous \$414,000 FEMA grant, our Electrical Retrofit Project is powering ahead as a key part of the Influent and Control Building Upgrades, improving our infrastructure for years to come.
- **Pump It Up:** Congressionally Directed Spending of \$2 million has approved and we are gearing up to bid and construct Pump Station 9 at Pemberton Point, which promises to be a critical boost to our environmental efforts.
- **Energy Efficiency, Energized:** With the help of a \$90,000 Gap III Energy Grant, we're replacing outdated influent piping, valves, and pumps, slashing our energy consumption by a staggering 20 megawatt-hours per year-hours per year.
- **A Coastal Fortress:** Our grant proposal to FEMA in December could turn the tide against coastal storm flooding with a state-of-the-art perimeter berm and concrete wall, protecting our valuable treatment facility from harm.
- **Making Waves:** Our Ocean Outfall Rehabilitation project is ready to make waves, with design plans in the bag and a construction timeline set for late summer 2023 through winter 2024 provided Town Meeting approval of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Get ready to see us take our environmental efforts to the next level!

Projects Update:

- **A Breath of Fresh Air:** We're putting the finishing touches on our HVAC upgrades at WWTF, with contractors ticking off the final items on their punch list and wrapping up control systems. It's all systems go for completion by late May!
- **Building Upgrades:** Our Influent Process, Aeration, and Control Building are getting a much-needed facelift, with contractors already given the green light to proceed, submittal reviews well underway and work progressing. Exciting times ahead!
- **Inspecting our Sewers:** As part of our ongoing commitment to maintenance, we're taking a closer look at our sewers with thorough inspections, ensuring we're always at the forefront of the latest infrastructure improvements.

Sewerology:

Welcome to Sewerology, where we dive into the world of wastewater management! In this segment, we'll discuss some of the financial terms that we deal with in the Sewer Department. Understanding these terms can help you understand how we budget for the maintenance and improvement of our infrastructure. Remember these terms for the upcoming Town Meeting:

- **Capital Budget:** The capital budget is the portion of the budget that is allocated for long-term investments, such as equipment upgrades, or replacing old pump stations or aging sewer lines. This budget is typically funded in one year and spread out over several years to account for the high cost of these projects.
- **Operating Budget:** The operating budget covers the day-to-day expenses of running the Sewer Department, such as contract operator, salaries, maintenance costs, and chemicals used for wastewater treatment.
- **Rate Structure:** Sewer rates are typically structured in a way that reflects the cost of providing the service. This includes fixed charges (the base fee) and variable charges (the per unit fee) based on the volume of wastewater generated by each customer as measured by water use.
- **Reserves:** Reserves are funds set aside for emergencies or unexpected expenses. In the Sewer Department, we maintain reserves to cover things like equipment breakdowns or major repairs to our infrastructure.
- **Debt Service:** When the Sewer Department needs to borrow money to fund large capital projects, we pay back that debt over time with interest, similar to a mortgage. This is known as debt service, and it's an important part of our budgeting process.

By understanding these financial terms, you can see how we allocate resources to maintain and improve our sewer system. It's our goal to provide reliable and affordable sewer service to our customers while also ensuring the long-term sustainability of our infrastructure. Thank you for reading this Sewerology segment, and stay tuned for our next edition where we'll discuss the importance of water conservation to our sewer system.