



SewerWorks

S U M M E R 2 0 1 4

From the Chairman

GNHWPCA PREPARES FOR THE FUTURE



As the Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority (GNHWPCA) is in its ninth year of providing service to the towns of East Haven, Hamden, New Haven and Woodbridge I would like to review our ongoing projects and the path forward for the GNHWPCA's plans to enhance the environment and provide reliable treatment that is sustainable and affordable.

The GNHWPCA continues to implement the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) to reduce Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO). The recent study of the Boulevard Interceptor which runs along the West River is showing how to reduce overflows during rain events by making modifications to the overflow structures located on the West River. This study will also show the impact of storm water from the neighborhoods in the West River watershed which contribute to the CSO's. The GNHWPCA's public information session will highlight this information. The GNHWPCA has also donated rain barrels to the West River Water Festival to highlight residential storm water practices.

In furtherance of GNHWPCA's commitment to "Protect the Environment" the East Shore Water Pollution Abatement facility is undergoing a \$57 Million upgrade. This upgrade includes work to increase nitrogen removal, a new odor control system, a new solids handling facility, and a new plant wide electrical system including two 2 Megawatt emergency generators. The upgrade to remove more nitrogen from the discharge to New Haven harbor will help improve Long Island Sound's water quality. GNHWPCA was recently included in a radio article on WSHU Public Radio News about achieving nitrogen reductions in Long Island Sound. (<http://wshu.org/post/conn-new-york-achieving-nitrogen-reductions-long-island-sound>) The new odor control system will replace

the aging odor control components with a new centralized odor control facility. The improved solids handling facility will be able to handle the biosolids removed from the increased wet weather flows to the treatment plant that will reduce CSO flows. The new electrical system throughout the plant will replace the aging system and allow for new equipment to be connected. The new emergency generators will allow for more reliability to maintain treatment during emergency conditions.

This entire project is funded by the Clean Water Fund which is administered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The Clean Water Fund is at an all time high allowing for projects that benefit the environment and provides jobs. The \$57 Million that we will be receiving from DEEP will be divided into a \$15 million grant and a \$42 million loan with an interest rate of 2 percent for the next 20 years. This grant coupled with the 2 percent loan is a tremendous benefit to our ratepayers.

The GNHWPCA is preparing for future climate change by installing four megawatts of emergency generating capacity and an increasing the elevations of our critical equipment. The GNHWPCA has developed a business continuity plan and continues to train its' staff to provide reliable service during emergency conditions. The GNHWPCA has received a grant of \$137,000 from FEMA to repair damages caused by Storm Sandy. The GNHWPCA has submitted a Grant Application to FEMA for both East Haven and New Haven Coastal Pump Stations. If approved, work will be performed that will increase the resiliency to these pump stations.

—Alphonse Paolillo

REMINDER: In the event of a sewer emergency please call the Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority "Sewer Emergency Number" 203 466-5260.

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GNHWPCA TARGETS RENEWAL OF ITS' PUMP STATIONS



Mill Rock Pump Station before and after rehabilitation

After regionalization in 2005, the Authority took control of the 15 wastewater pump stations in East Haven, Hamden and Woodbridge. Most of these pumps stations were constructed in the '40s, '50s and '60s and are beyond their useful life. While these stations are in working condition they also need to be upgraded. The Authority established an asset management rehabilitation plan that addresses repairs and upgrades to these stations based on their age and reliability. The Hamden Pump Stations were among the first to be addressed. The rehabilitation projects include replacement of the older pumps with new electric dry pit submersible

non-clog pumps. Other improvements include upgrades to the electrical and HVAC systems in addition to building improvements such as new roofs, doors, and windows.

Over the past eight years the Authority has completed renovations of the four Hamden Pump Stations (Welton Street, Old Chauncey Road, State Street, Mill Rock Avenue) and is now ready to begin rehabilitation of the Whitneyville Pump Station in Hamden and the Main Street Pump Station in East Haven. In addition to the work completed at the Hamden stations the Authority has also invested in three stations located in New Haven bringing the total capital rehabilitation investment to over 5 million dollars.

The next phase of replacement will address five coastal pump stations in East Haven. The GNHWPCA has packaged the proposed rehabilitation work in an application to FEMA to receive Flood Hazard Mitigation Funding. When this phase is completed the Authority will have renewed 11 of the original 15 pump stations. The remaining four stations will be address in future capital budgets over the next few years.

Watch What You Flush!

In the past 5 years the popularity of bathroom wipes or pre-moistened towelettes has increased significantly. A trade group says wipes are a \$6 billion year industry and wipe consumption has increased at a rate of 5 percent a year for the past 6 years. Often advertised as flushable, these wipes can cause problems with the homeowners sewer lateral and with the Authority's pipe system, pump stations and sewage treatment equipment.

While wipes can be considered as flushables they are what we call NON-DISPERSIBLES. Non-dispersibles by definition means that the product cannot breakdown within the sewer system at a rate similar to that of toilet paper.

Flushing Non-Dispersible items costs the GNHWPCA and our rate payers in many ways. The most direct impact happens when non-dispersible items are flushed then get lodged in the lateral sewer line that leads from your home to the sewer main in the street. This is the smallest line that waste passes through on its way to our Treatment Plant. Home laterals are usually 6-inches in diameter or less. Non-dispersible items flushed can combine with grease and other debris to clog and cause a backup. Items that pass through the laterals make their way to our pump and screen-



ing equipment. This equipment can become clogged or damaged by large quantities of non-dispersible materials. When equipment becomes clogged or damaged labor and maintenance costs are increased. The result is higher labor costs as well as shortening the lifespan of the equipment.

The Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry recently revised voluntary guidelines. They established seven specific tests for manufacturers to determine which wipes they could call flushables. INDA also recommends a universal do-not-flush logo (shown here) to be displayed on non-dispersible products. Consumers will soon see this label displayed on products that are determined to be non flushables. While we await labeling by the manufacturers, we suggest that homeowners refrain from flushing the following items: Non-woven Fabrics (baby wipes, dryersheets, facial pads), Feminine Hygiene Products, Paper Products—(Institutional Paper Towels), Dental Floss, Condoms, Band-aids, and Cat Litter.

For outstanding resources and information regarding this topic we suggest visiting the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) website which has a page dedicated to this topic. www.nacwa.org/flushables/