

Quarterly Update



April 2008



Volume 1, Issue 1

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Regional Cooperation Continues: Addressing Sewer Challenges

To address regional concerns, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) organized a committee in 1993 consisting of local government utility directors. These utility leaders from around the region meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of mutual concern.

Like most of the United States, the Hampton Roads region faces challenges from aging sewers with many of the sewers in the region now approaching 30 to 50 years in

age. This is creating challenges for local governments and the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD), including occasional sanitary sewer overflows.

Local governments own and operate the sewers and pump stations that serve the residents in their communities. HRSD owns and operates the large pumping stations and wastewater treatment plants that safely manage the

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Region Makes Progress Meeting Consent Order Requirements

The Hampton Roads localities and HRSD have been working hard to meet the requirements of both the State Special Order by Consent (SOC) and the EPA Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO).

HRSD and the localities have prepared and submitted flow

monitoring plans for The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) review and approval. These plans describe how each party will measure the flow in various parts of the sewer system during both dry weather and rainfall events. This

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Regional Cooperation Continues: Addressing Sewer Challenges

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sewage generated by homes and businesses.

In 2005, this committee appointed a group of utility engineers and operators to address the sewer challenge in the region. This group, called the Capacity Team, is composed of representatives from several of the cities and counties in the region. The team addressed the technical challenges associated with an aging sewer system, especially those related to overflows.

Overflows occur in the sanitary sewer system for a variety of reasons including blockages from grease put in the system from homes and businesses, broken pipes due to age, damage from contractors who break the pipes from their digging activities and high flows from heavy rainfall events.

Following notification of interest from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ), the Capacity Team began preparation of a regional approach to analyze the challenges in the regional sewer system and develop solutions. This team met nearly weekly for a period of two years to develop a consistent regional approach to understanding the challenges and finding solutions.

The result of the Capacity Team's hard work was incorporated into a State Special Order by Consent (SOC) approved by the State Water Control Board in September 2007. EPA also issued a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) in August 2007. Since that time, the Capacity Team, the localities and HRSD have been working side by side to address these challenges.

The output of this work, which includes measuring flows, modeling the system, inspecting pipes and developing plans for long term solutions (Rehabilitation Plans and the Regional Wet Weather Management Plan), will be completed in 2013 for review and approval by the VDEQ. The solutions in these plans will then be built over the following years. While, at present, the magnitude of the costs are unknown, they are likely to be substantial.

Working together as a region to address these challenges is critical to the success of the program and to finding the best possible solutions for local ratepayers. Ongoing cooperation by the localities and HRSD will lead to the most efficient and cost effective solutions to meet these regional sewer infrastructure challenges.

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Region Makes Progress Meeting Consent Order Requirements

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information will be used to decide where in the system to perform detailed inspection and to develop a model of the sewer system to define how the system performs, especially during rainfall events. This model will be very useful in developing solutions to wet weather problems as part of the Regional Wet Weather Management Plan.

In addition, the region has conducted training sessions on the requirements of the SOC and UAO for all localities. This training was aimed at helping HRSD and the localities comply with the detailed portions of the SOC and UAO.

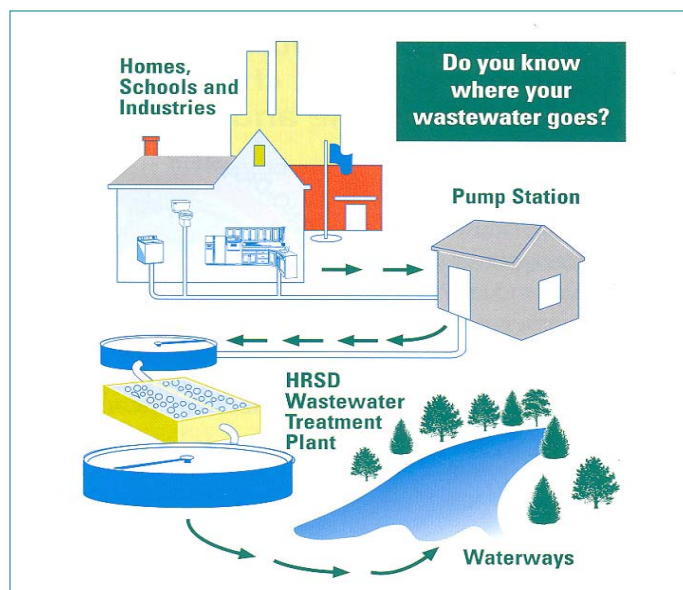
HRSD is also conducting monthly meetings with localities to discuss the types of information required for the model and ongoing compliance. These meetings also provide a forum for introducing new questions and issues, and developing solutions. The locality meetings are typically held the last Monday of the month. VDEQ representatives usually attend to offer their perspective.

HRSD has made significant progress complying with the terms of the UAO. Submittals to date include:

- Flow, Pressure and Rainfall Monitoring and Reporting System Plan
- Short Term Wet Weather Operating Plan
- Collection System Release and Pressure Reporting and Recordkeeping
- Regional Hydraulic Model Plan
- Capacity and Condition Assessment Plan
- Public Participation Plan
- First Quarterly Report

These plans and reports describe the operating procedures and investigations that HRSD will perform to define the performance of its sewer system. The information developed will help identify solutions which will reduce sanitary sewer overflows.

- Management, Operations and Maintenance Program Review
- Overflow Response Plan



Regional Wet Weather Management Plan

Quarterly Update

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

www.HRSD.COM/RWWMP.HTM

Help Protect Our Waterways by Reporting Suspected Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO)

Please call the number listed for your locality if you observe an SSO.

Locality	During Business Hours	After Business Hours
Chesapeake Public Utilities	757-382-CITY	757-382-3550
Gloucester Public Utilities	804-693-4044	804-693-3890
Hampton Public Works	757-727-8311	757-727-8311
Isle of Wight Public Utilities	757-365-6284	757-357-2151
James City Service Authority	757-229-7421	757-566-0112
Newport News Public Works	757-269-2750	757-247-2500
Norfolk Public Utilities	757-823-1000	757-823-1000
Poquoson Public Works	757-868-3590	757-868-3501
Portsmouth Public Utilities	757-393-8561	757-393-8561
Suffolk Public Utilities	757-514-7000	757-514-7034
Town of Smithfield	757-365-4272	757-357-2151
Virginia Beach Public Utilities	757-385-1400	757-385-3111
Williamsburg Public Works	757-220-6140	757-220-6196
York Environmental & Development Services	757-890-3773	757-890-3773

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