

Quarterly Update

July 2008

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Regional Technical Standards Training: Cooperation Continues

By Julia Hillegass, HRPDC

Approximately 150 attendees participated in the Regional Technical Standards Trainings offered by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) through the Regional Wastewater Program. The trainings were offered as a part of a series of regional training sessions to assist localities, their project engineers, and engineers working for local developers in meeting the requirements of the State Special Order by Consent with the Department of Environmental Quality. Thirteen Hampton Roads localities and the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) are parties to the Consent Order and meet regularly to address technical issues of regional importance.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) national enforcement priorities target Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs). Their SSO national enforcement strategy aims to achieve maximum compliance with environmental regulations in order to protect human health and the environment. SSOs have a variety of causes, including severe weather, equipment failures, management, operation and maintenance issues, and vandalism.

Properly designed, operated, and maintained sewer systems are meant to collect and transport sewage to a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW). However, releases of raw sewage from municipal sanitary sewers can occur. When this occurs, SSOs can pose a risk to public health and the environment. The main pollutants in raw sewage from SSOs are bacteria, pathogens, nutrients, untreated industrial wastes, pollutants such as oil and pesticides, and wastewater solids and debris. Hampton Roads localities and HRSD pride themselves on quick response, containment, and clean-up, thus minimizing the threat to human health and safety.

The Consent Order provides a timeline and milestones for studying, improving, and repairing the system. The associated tasks are costly and ratepayers should anticipate wastewater rate increases in the years ahead. By approaching these issues regionally, solutions can be found that best serve the citizens of Hampton Roads to maintain water quality and public health and safety in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

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 | 757-393-8524 | 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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