



News Release

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Heavy Rain and Flooding Trigger Use of Alternate Outfall at Norfolk Treatment Plant

—Residents Advised to Avoid Contact with Elizabeth River Water near Lamberts Point—

The nearly 8.7 inches of rain that has fallen in Norfolk and Portsmouth neighborhoods since September 19, which has caused flooded roads and closed schools, also has sent large amounts of stormwater into the sanitary sewer system. To reduce the likelihood of overflows of untreated sewage from manholes in residential areas, for 58 minutes this morning the Virginia Initiative Plant, located in Norfolk, diverted excess flow to an alternate outfall for disinfection only.

The plant, which receives an average flow of 33 million gallons per day, was averaging well above 80 million gallons of flow today. The plant was able to fully treat all but 53,600 gallons, the amount that was diverted for disinfection only before it was discharged to the Elizabeth River near Lamberts Point. As a precaution, residents may wish to avoid contact with the water in the Elizabeth River from Lamberts Point to the Lafayette River for approximately 24 hours.

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HRSD, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, was created by public referendum in 1940 and currently serves 17 cities and counties in southeast Virginia, an area with a population of 1.6 million.

Our Mission: We protect public health and the waters of Hampton Roads by treating wastewater effectively.