2023 ANNUAL
SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW REPORT

PREPARED BY THE
TUSCARAWAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT

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ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS

A sanitary sewer overflow ("SSO") is an overflow, spill, release, or diversion of wastewater from a sanitary sewer system. All SSOs are prohibited except under emergency conditions where the overflow occurs in full compliance with all of the provisions of 40 CFR 122.41 (m) and any other provisions of a specific facility's NPDES Permit.

Immediate notification must be provided to the Ohio EPA and the Tuscarawas County Board of Heath within 24 hours of any SSOs that imminently and substantially endanger human health. These types of overflows include dry weather overflows, major line breaks, overflow events that result in fish kills or other significant harm, overflows that expose the general public to contact with raw sewage, and overflow events that occur in sensitive waters and high exposure areas such as protection areas for public drinking water intakes and waters where primary contact recreation occurs.

SSOs that do not imminently or substantially endanger human health, but do enter waters of the state, either directly or through a storm sewer or other conveyance, must be reported to the Ohio EPA on the facility's monthly operating report.

Each year, an Annual Report must be prepared listing all SSOs in the collection system, including those that do not enter waters of the state. This report must also include a table that summarizes the occurrence of water in basements ("WIB") and a narrative analysis of WIB patterns by location, frequency, and cause. Only WIBs caused by a problem in the county-owned collection system are included in this table. WIBs caused by problems with customer service laterals or internal plumbing systems are not included.

No later than March 31st each year, we are required to submit the annual report to Ohio EPA. We are also required to provide adequate notice to the public of the availability of the report.

In addition to the sewer collection systems listed in Table 1, the county also owns, operates and maintains five (5) wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). Discharge from each of these plants is regulated under the Clean Water Act and under the terms and conditions of National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for each WWTP. As a condition of these NPDES permits, permit holders are required to prepare an annual report of all sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) in the collection system.

OVERVIEW OF SEWER DISTRICT FACILITIES

For the purpose of preserving and promoting public health and welfare, the Board of Commissioners, Tuscarawas County, Ohio established the Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Sewer District ("District") to provide sanitary sewer facilities within the county and outside of municipal corporation limits. The District also operates and maintains sewer facilities within the municipal corporation limits of Barnhill, Bolivar, Zoar, Midvale, Mineral City, Port Washington, and Stone Creek. Table 1 provides a list of each sewer district currently served by the District.

Table 1 - Sewer Sub-Districts

(Note: **Bold font** indicates the treatment facility is owned and operated by the County. *Italicized font* indicates the treatment facility is owned and operated by a separate political subdivision. Any SSOs or WIBs in these systems will be reported in the SSO Report for that particular Treatment Facility)

Sewer Sub-District Name	Treatment Facility
Kerr	**Kerr WWTP**
Midvale/Barnhill	*Twin City Water & Sewer District WWTP*
Wilkshire Hills Area	**Wilkshire Hills WWTP**
Village of Zoar	
Village of Bolivar	
Lawrence Twp. Industrial Park	
Hunters Green	
Mineral City	**Mineral City WWTP**
Sandyville	**Sandyville/East Sparta WWTP**
UMH/Sandy Valley Estates	
Port Washington	*Village of Newcomerstown WWTP*
Stone Creek	**Stone Creek WWTP**
Wainwright	*Village of Tuscarawas WWTP*

A CUSTOMER'S GUIDE TO SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS

What is a Sanitary Sewer and what is its purpose?

A sanitary sewer collects and carries household and industrial sewage from individual buildings such as homes and commercial businesses through a series of progressively larger sewer pipes called the "collection system". Separate sanitary sewer systems are not designed to carry rain water.

The primary purpose of a separate sanitary sewer is to protect public health and the environment. Raw sewage contains disease-causing organisms, which can make people sick if they become directly exposed. Raw sewage also can contain toxic chemicals and offensive odors. The sanitary sewer system carries the raw sewage away from homes to a treatment plant where most of the harmful organisms are destroyed, odors are controlled, and the level of toxic chemicals is reduced.

Why are Sanitary Sewer Overflows a Public Health, Environmental and Economic Problem?

Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) occur when raw or partially diluted sewage is discharged from a sewer collection system before it reaches the sewage treatment plant. SSOs threaten public health because they can cause people to be directly exposed to disease-causing germs called "pathogens", such as E. coli, which are present in sewage. SSO's can also have negative impacts on the natural environment, causing poor water quality in lakes, rivers and streams, and polluting groundwater, which may be used for drinking water purposes. SSOs that result in basement flooding not only are unhealthy, but also are extremely unpleasant and costly to clean up. Where these chronically occur, property values may be reduced.

How Might You Be Contributing to the Problem of SSOs?

Many property owners are not aware that the maintenance of the sewer line connection between a home and the main sewer line in the street is their responsibility. When poorly constructed or improperly maintained, these connections frequently cause raw sewage to back up in basements.

The connection of roof-gutter downspouts or sump-pump drains directly to the service lateral adds excess water to the main sewer lines, and can contribute to raw sewage being discharged into the streets and other public areas. Homes and small businesses, such as restaurants, can contribute to SSO's by disposing grease into the sewer line. When grease cools, it can form blockages, which then cause the sewer to overflow.

What Should You Do When You Identify an SSO?

Make sure that people are kept away from the area of the overflow, typically a manhole cover. This is especially important for children and pets that may play near the overflow area (street, public park, or local stream). Report the overflow immediately to the Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Sewer District (330-874-3262). Precautions can then be taken to reduce the risk of public exposure to raw sewage by monitoring the impact of the overflow and ensuring proper cleanup.

What Can You Do to Prevent and Reduce SSOs?

You can prevent and reduce SSOs if you...

- Make sure the basement sump pump does not connect to your sewage drain pipes or to a sink or floor drain in your basement. Such connections are illegal. The water from these pumps can overload the sewer causing it to overflow raw sewage into a stream, street, or someone else's basement.
- Inspect the gutters on your house or business to see if the down spout connects to a sewer line. Such connections are illegal. If the gutters are connected to the sewer line, have them disconnected. The runoff water from the roof can contribute to an SSO.
- Look for and check your sewer clean out. The clean out usually is a small pipe, about 4" in diameter, outside your house that is used to access the service lateral for cleaning the sewer line. You can find it near the house, where the service lateral comes out, and/or near the street, where the service lateral connects to the main sewer line. Make sure the cap to the clean out pipe is on and has not been damaged. Replace missing caps; otherwise, rain can get into the sewer line, causing it to overflow.
- Avoid pouring grease down your sink. When the grease cools in the sewer line, it can form clogs and blockages, which then can cause the sewer to overflow or back up into buildings. Grease can also contribute to restricted flow in your home plumbing and service laterals, resulting in costly repairs.
- Avoid planting trees and shrubs above or near the service lateral that runs from your home to the street. Roots can enter and clog sewers, causing them to back up and overflow.

Seven Terms for Better Understanding SSOs:

Infiltration is water that enters the sanitary sewer system through pipe joints, line breaks or cracks.

Inflow is rainwater from roofs, pavements, yards, manholes and manhole covers that flows directly into a sanitary sewer.

Service lateral is the sewer pipe that connects a house to the main sewer line in the street.

Sewer clean out is the small pipe with cap located near the place in a house where the service lateral enters. The clean out is used to free blockages that may form in the service lateral.

Pathogens are organisms in raw sewage that cause diseases, including cholera, dysentery, hepatitis, and gastroenteritis.

Manhole and manhole cover are structures usually found in a street, parking area, or sidewalk that are used to provide access to the main underground sewer lines.

Collection system is the series of progressively larger pipes through which sewage is carried from homes and businesses to a treatment plant. The collection system includes service laterals and the main sewer lines.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS AND WATER IN BASEMENT OCCURRENCES

Reporting Period: **01/01/2023 through 12/31/2023**

Table 2 – Sanitary Sewer Overflows

Permit Number	Facility Name	I.D. Number	Receiving Water	Location Description	Event Date	Date Eliminated	Volume[1]
0PJ00008	Wilkshire Hills WWTP	301	None	Hollingsworth	5/10/2023	5/10/2023	0.001

Table 3 – Water in Basement Occurrences

Permit Number	Facility Name	Sewershed	WIB Occurrences	Cause
0PJ00008	Wilkshire Hills WWTP	Huffman Sq.	1	Roots in the main line

[1] Expressed as millions of gallons