

JANUARY 2018 HIGHLIGHTS



NACWA PLATINUM 28 AWARD

In July, the Authority was recognized for 28 years of 100% compliance with our permit limitations by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. Since receiving this award, our compliance has extended to a period of more than 29 years and involves more than 105,000 compliance measurement points. Less than 150 facilities in the entire country received Platinum Awards for five years or more of compliance. The HSA period of compliance is the longest of any facility in the country. Our operational record exceeds any facility in New Jersey.

UTILITY OF THE FUTURE TODAY

In July 2017 the Authority was recognized by the Utility of The Future Today Program for innovative and forward-thinking practices that are providing sustainable, efficient and value-added services to their community. The Water Environment Federation, NACWA, the Water and ReUse Foundation and the WaterReuse Association cited the Authority's progress and exceptional performance in implementing various practices, cost saving measures and alternative/re-usable energy in its recent capital improvement program.



NACWA SILVER EXCELLENCE IN MANAGEMENT AWARD

In July 2017, the Authority also received the NACWA Silver Excellence In Management Award. The award period continues through 2019. This award recognizes our implementation of the Ten Attributes of an Effectively Managed Water Sector Utility (from the Effective Utility Management Primer) and Resource Efficiency & Protection Activities. Only four facilities in New Jersey have ever received this award. When presenting the award, NACWA noted that we demonstrated a small utility could meet all of the requirements for the award.

AEA BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AWARD

In March 2014, the Authority received the Association of Environmental Authorities Best Management Practices Award for our Collection System Life Extension Program. The program life has extended sewer line life indefinitely. Significantly I & I reduction has been achieved, particularly during storm events. HSA has significantly reduced blockages and overflows; there have only been three overflows in ten years. Backups into buildings have also been reduced; there have been none in nine years. Cost savings have been realized since there have been no major failures.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCY

The Authority has always dedicated resources to prepare for operation in adverse weather conditions. The collection system is continually upgraded and maintained to prevent inflow of ground and surface water during storm events. Treatment plant facilities are designed and plans are in place to be able to operate in severe weather without outside utilities. We were able to continue operation and maintain compliance during Hurricanes Irene and Lee and the Halloween snow storm in 2011 as well as during Superstorm Sandy in 2012. The power outage during Sandy lasted ten days. These events as well as prediction of future climate change and more frequent and severe storms have made it necessary to provide more resiliency. Projects are planned or underway to provide diversified fuel sources including biogas and natural gas to generate power and to further protect the collection system.

PHOSPHORUS REMOVAL

In 2009, after more than 20 years of work, the NJDEP adopted new limitations for phosphorus. The Authority has been conducting full scale pilot operations in anticipation of adoption of the new limitations. The Authority challenged the requirement for year round phosphorus removal. We were unsuccessful in this challenge and our new operating permit was issued which requires the removal of phosphorus year round beginning in 2018. This will increase annual operating costs by hundreds of thousands of dollars. 2018 bills reflect the beginning of the increased costs.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The second phase of our digester projects involves rehabilitation of Primary Digester No. 2 and the installation of a combined heat and power system that will generate electricity and produce hot water is under construction. At the end of the digester projects, the Authority will be able to maximize use of digester gas for heat and electric power generation. The Primary Digester No. 2 project also includes replacement of screening equipment, installation of new de-chlorination equipment, and electrical improvements. A fuel source diversification and reliability project is also under construction. This project will allow for the use of natural gas as a fuel source and will include a second combined heat and power unit. Projects to replace 57 and 39 year old settling tanks and upgrade our 26 year old aeration system will begin construction in 2018.

COLLECTION SYSTEM

The Authority staff has continued the increased levels of line cleaning and inspection of the collection system. As part of this process, HSA staff locates and makes minor repairs and adjustments to peep sites. Each homeowner is required to have a peep site on their sewer line at the edge of the road right-of-way. Over the years, many of these have been buried or damaged. This has the potential to cause sewage back ups into the building. Our repair program reduces this potential and eliminates infiltration of ground and storm water. If you can not locate your peep site or it is missing a cap, please contact our office and we will inspect this for you. In 2009, we began TV inspection with our own staff and equipment. The inspections are primarily for main line sewers, however based upon conditions found, some parts of house connections may also be inspected. Collection System repair projects are on-going.

FAT FREE SEWERS

The discharge of oil and grease has the potential to cause sewage to back up into your home or business. Not discharging grease down the drain is the best way for a homeowner to avoid the problem. If you are a non-residential user, you are reminded that you must comply with the requirements of the Authority's grease removal program.

DRUG FREE DRAINS

Personal care products and pharmaceuticals have potential adverse effects on water quality. The easiest and most cost effective way to protect the environment is to not discharge these products down the drain. Proper disposal options include the following:

- Don't flush prescription drugs down the toilet
- Remove unused or expired prescription drugs from their original containers and throw them in the trash
- Mix prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter, and put them in a sealable container such as an empty can or used plastic bag.
- Take advantage of community pharmaceutical take-back or solid waste programs that allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central location for proper disposal. Unused drugs can be disposed of in the drop box in the entrance lobby of the Hanover Township Police Department 24-hours per day.
- Check with your local pharmacy to see if they accept unused or expired medications for disposal

EMERGENCY & AFTER HOURS RESPONSE

The Authority staff is available at the Treatment Plant 7 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. week days and is on call 24 hours a day. They respond to emergencies and call-ins throughout the year. Some of these involve equipment at the Treatment Plant or emergency mark outs for excavation. A few involve sewage back ups. If you experience a sewage back up, and believe this is due to a blockage in the main in the street, you should contact the Treatment Plant between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 973/428.2486. After hours, please contact the police department at 973/428.2512. The Authority staff will respond and may be able to help resolve the situation.

REGULATIONS

You are reminded that all users of the Authority's system must comply with the Authority's Regulations. The Regulations include specific discharge limitations, maintenance requirements and spill reporting procedures. The Regulations can be reviewed at the Authority's Administrative Office. Copies are also available for purchase.