

City of
Fitchburg



Department of
Public Works

COMMISSIONER

301 Broad Street
978-829-1910
978-345-9687 FAX

STREETS & PARKS

301 Broad Street
978-829-1900
978-345-9687 FAX

WASTEWATER

166 Boulder Drive, Suite 108
978-345-9622
978-345-9623 FAX

SEWER COLLECTION

301 Broad Street
978-829-1900
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WATER

1200 Rindge Road
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ENGINEERING

301 Broad Street
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CEMETERIES

115 Mount Elam Road
978-345-9578
978-345-9686 FAX

February 28, 2018

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Mail code OES04-04
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3912
Attn: Neil Handler

Massachusetts D.E.P., CERO
8 New Bond Street
Worcester, MA 01606
Attn: David Boyer

Re: SSO and Dry-Weather CSO Compliance Report

Dear Messrs. Handler and Boyer:

In accordance with the City of Fitchburg's Consent Decree, Paragraph 71, this letter is to serve as the 2017 Compliance Report. In this report we are covering the period from February 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018. It includes a list of sanitary sewer overflows (SSO's). No dry-weather combined sewer overflows (CSO's) occurred, so none are listed. A map is provided displaying the locations of all events. A list is provided of private property sewer backups that sought City assistance. Finally, a brief explanation will be provided on how the City expects to meet its water quality-based CSO compliance obligations.

List of SSO's

The City experienced seven (7) sanitary sewer overflows (SSO's) in the reporting period that were the result of issues with its municipally owned sewer system. All SSO's were reported to the MassDEP and EPA, and a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO)/Bypass Notification Form was submitted.

Table 1 (attached) includes all SSO's, and a brief description of them follows:

- 1) **396 Fifth Mass Turnpike, February 28th** - Fitchburg DPW - Streets Division, damaged the siphon at Fifth Mass Turnpike under Flagg Brook while excavating to uncover a drainage outfall. The City mobilized a bypass pump to stop the SSO, and repaired the damaged siphon the following day. Approximately 21,000 gallons of sewerage entered Flagg Brook.
- 2) **22 Davis Street, April 11th** - The City experienced a blockage in a 12-inch sewer on Davis Street/Mount Globe Street, which is a cross-country line in steep terrain. Approximately 2,000 gallons discharged out of a buried manhole, and then discharged onto a large parking lot. The flow then reached a catch basin and re-entered the combined system. The blockage was caused by roots within the line. The blockage was removed via a jet truck. The City was unable to TV the line due to root intrusion and a vertical bend in the pipe. The City is planning to redirect this sewer line to Davis Street and abandon the cross-country line to prevent future SSOs.

- 3) **22 Prospect Street, April 12th** - The City experienced a collapse in the 12-inch sewer line on Prospect Street due to a sewer defect at a service tap connection. Approximately 5,000 gallons discharged out of a manhole, and then discharged to a private catch basin and into the Nashua River. The sewer line and defective tap were repaired the following day after SSO discovery.
- 4) **10 Jerry Street, April 20th** - The City experienced a blockage in an 8-inch sewer on Jerry Street. Approximately 500 gallons discharged out of a manhole, and then percolated into the ground. The blockage was caused by roots intrusion and a defective pipe. The blockage was removed and the line was cleaned. The defective section of pipe was also replaced with 8-inch PVC during the reporting period to prevent future SSOs.
- 5) **8 Crescent Heights, October 3rd** - The City experienced a blockage in a 6-inch sewer on Crescent. Approximately 15 gallons spilled into the basement of 8 Crescent Heights. The blockage was caused by a collapsed sewer, resulting from water main construction. The sewer main was not marked in the correct location due to poor records in the area. A repair was made and a new sewer manhole was installed, at the intersection of Crescent Heights with Bond Street, to improve the City's ability to inspect and maintain the line in the event of a future blockage.
- 6) **1 Oak Hill Road, October 30th** - On October 30th, an intense rain event occurred in the City, with 2.75 inches of rain falling in just over 5 hours, which caused the combined sewer upstream of this location to surcharge and discharge water to numerous first floor apartments at this location. Approximately 2,000 gallons discharged out of a manhole, and then percolated into the ground. Additional sewer separation will need to be conducted upstream of this location to prevent surcharging in large rain events. In the interim, the City suggested to the property owner to install a backflow preventer on the sewer service to prevent sewerage from backing up into the property.
- 7) **33 Shelley Avenue, October 30th** - On October 30, the basement of 33 Shelley Avenue backed-up with 10 gallons discharging into the basement floor, likely due to a blocked backflow preventer during the large event on this date. Upon arrival, the City observed minor surcharging in the 8-inch sewer in the street. The City has experienced similar issues in this neighborhood in the previous year, and believes it to be the result of combination manholes upstream on Lunenburg Street that transfer large amounts of storm flow to the sewer in extreme rain events. The City is actively working with MassDOT to separate these combination manholes. Due to the drain line being undersized, MassDOT has requested the City install a temporary measure to separate the combination manholes until a new drain line can be installed on Lunenburg Street. The City hopes to implement this temporary method in the coming year. In the interim, the City has increased preventative maintenance on the backflow preventer at this property to protect against future events.

List of Dry-Weather CSO Events

The City experienced no dry weather CSO events (see Table 2, attached) during the reporting period, due to checking regulators for sediment/debris build up after every rain storm, and modifications at regulators in the previous reporting period.

List of Private Property Backups

The City uses "SeeClickFix" to monitor private property sewer backups. SeeClickFix is a web-based software which allows the City, or constituents to enter and track sewer issues. To date, the system has

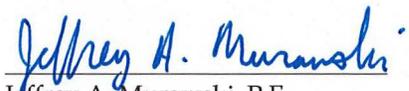
been well received by both residents and City personnel. Table 3 (attached) includes all sewer backup service calls that were determined to be homeowner issues (issues not relating to the operation of the City-owned sewer infrastructure). Homeowners are responsible for calling a plumber to clear blockages or infrastructure failures within the privately owned sewer service or within the building plumbing.

Qualifying statement to meet water quality obligations.

In the reporting year, the City completed the Phase I report of its Sewer System Evaluation Study, finished the majority of its Phase II field investigative work, and conducted a portion of Phase IV SSES investigative work by inspecting a portion of the trunk sewer. The City also separated 30 combination manholes during the reporting year, and will be separating additional combination manholes in the coming year using a combination of in-house and external forces. The City also completed the Hazel Street Sewer Separation Project, which allowed for closure of CSO Regulator 036, and will potentially allow for the closure of CSO Regulator 007 in the next reporting period. We will continue to make strong efforts in the next reporting period to improve water quality to the Nashua River.

If you have any questions regarding this compliance report, please contact Sewer System Manager, Anthony Maressa, P.E., at 978-829-1916, or the undersigned.

Very Truly Yours,


Jeffrey A. Murawski, P.E.
Fitchburg DPW Deputy Commissioner of Wastewater

Attachments

Electronic copy: (Transmittal letter only)	Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section, DOJ Susan M. Poswistilo, Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Wagner, USEPA Louis Dundin, Assistant Attorney General, Massachusetts AG Vincent Pusateri, II, Fitchburg City Solicitor
Electronic copy:	Lenny R. Laakso, P.E., Fitchburg Commissioner of Public Works Anthony Maressa, P.E., Sewer System Manager

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."



Jeffrey A. Murawski, P.E.
DPW Deputy Commissioner of Wastewater

Table 3 - Private SSO Events & Service Call Log (February 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018)

Date	Address	Nature of Call	Issue	Comments
03/28/2017	Payson Street	The manhole @ Walnut St. needs to be repaired.	dislodged MH cover City responsibility	dislodged MH cover City responsibility
06/05/2017	308 Boutelle Street	sink hole in front yard	Caller thought sink hole was related to Sewer Separation Work from 2 years ago.	Caller thought sink hole was related to Sewer Separation Work from 2 years ago.
06/09/2017	98R Laurel Street	Rattling cover, in front of USA Auto Service.	sewer-cov In front of #98F Laurel St. & USA Auto Service.	sewer-cov In front of #98F Laurel St. & USA Auto Service.
06/15/2017	231 Summer Street		Homeowner issue	Homeowne issue
06/15/2017	190 Wanoosnoc Road			
06/22/2017	14 Murkland	lateral filled with roots, lateral runs through adjacent home lot on Nutting Street, and wyes together		
06/26/2017	Massachusetts 2A	The Manhole needs to be repaired.	manhole repaired	manhole repaired
07/07/2017	166 Rollstone Street	lateral not flowing	Homeowner issue	Homeowner issue
07/20/2017	881 Main Street	floor drains not draining	Homeowner issue	Homeowner issue
07/31/2017	78 Simonds Street	Kate & Matt. main drain from house not flowing, snaked 80' still not flowing	Homeowner issue	Homeowner issue
07/31/2017	24 Dailey Terrace	Mike (owner) says main drain not flowing	Homeowner issue	Homeowner issue
08/01/2017	19 Theresa Street		replaced manhole	replaced manhole
08/01/2017	491 Westminster Street	complaint of sewer smell in area of ward street and westminster street	combination manholes off gasing	combination manholes off gasing
08/02/2017	158 Intervale Road	private line connecting homes on summer and intervale is backing up	Homeowner issue	Homeowner issue
08/24/2017	155 Krysiak Avenue	lateral not flowing	Homeowner issue	Homeowner issue
09/13/2017	190 Wanoosnoc Road	basement toilet not working	Homeowner issue	Homeowner issue
09/26/2017	34 Snow Street	rattling cover		
09/26/2017	520 Fairmount Street	water leaking out of hill behind house	groundwater	groundwater
10/16/2017	Theresa Street		replaced cover	replaced cover
10/16/2017	7 Webster Street	homeowner backing up	Unitil damaged lateral, homeowner issue	Unitil damaged lateral, homeowner issue
10/16/2017	179 Myrtle Avenue	lateral not flowing	homeowner issue	homeowner issue
10/17/2017	10 Columbia Avenue	basement sink not draining	homeowner issue	homeowner issue
10/19/2017	33 Ohio Avenue	rats in bathroom possibly from toilet	put rat killer on manhole benches	put rat killer on manhole benches
10/23/2017	41 School Street	back up into basement	homeowner issue	homeowner issue
10/27/2017	59 Beech Street	3 family apartment is not discharging into main line	Baltazar contractors damaged lateral during CSS, they repaired	Baltazar contractors damaged lateral during CSS, they repaired
10/27/2017	253 Lunenburg Street	Sewer smell in building. Line on Perkins Street was low flow and smelled of oil.	could not locate smell	could not locate smell
10/27/2017	56 Daniels Street	Sewer odor in building	homeowner issue	homeowner issue
10/27/2017	168 Lunenburg Street	Home above 3 family is backing up.	homeowner issue	homeowner issue
10/27/2017	1-19 Ward Street	Smells of sewer.	could not locate smell, jetted line	could not locate smell, jetted line
10/27/2017	42 Alice Avenue	Sewer backing up in basement. Mains are running fine. Owner's plumber said they had roots in the past.	homeowner issue	homeowner issue
10/27/2017	457 Old South Street	Sewer backup, not an SSO	homeowner issue	homeowner issue
10/27/2017	191 Wanoosnoc Road	Toilet not flushing	homeowner issue	homeowner issue
10/27/2017	10 Columbia Avenue	Backup, not an SSO	homeowner issue	homeowner issue
10/27/2017	86 Fitch Hill Avenue	sewer backup, not an SSO	homeowner issue	homeowner issue
10/30/2017	123 highview	roots may need to be cut out of main line on highview	homeowner issue	homeowner issue
11/02/2017	35 Forest Street	basement has some sewerage in it, resident claiming unitil put pole in 2 months ago and started having issues right after	homeowner issue, unitil damaged lateral putting in new pole	homeowner issue, unitil damaged lateral putting in new pole
11/02/2017	223 Summer Street	rattling covers in street	butyl'd covers	butyl'd covers
11/03/2017	91 Beech Street	baltazar ruined apron for driveway	repaired	repaired
12/18/2017	120 John Fitch Highway	toilets backing up slowly	homeowner issue	homeowner issue
01/08/2018	837 Mount Elam Road	e-one pump in basement is backing up	homeowner issue	homeowner issue
01/31/2018	466 Beech Street	Manhole cover off	repalced cover	repalced cover
01/31/2018	54 Snow Street	Issue with sewer service	homeowner issue	homeowner issue
01/31/2018	382 Pratt Road	sewer service issue	homeowner issue	homeowner issue
01/31/2018	9 Tilton Street	sewer service issue	homeowner issue	homeowner issue
01/31/2018	91 Atlantic Avenue	sewer service issue	homeowner issue	homeowner issue
01/31/2018	Fredette Street	Sewer odor	homeowner issue	homeowner issue



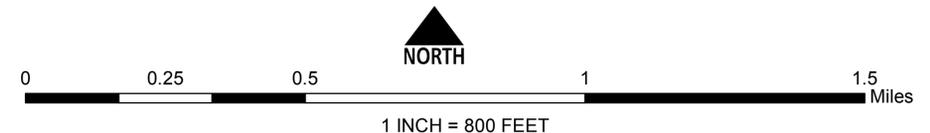
Date	Address	Discharge	Year
02/28/2017	FIFTH MASSACHUSETTS TURNPIKE	21,000 GAL.	2017
04/11/2017	22 DAVIS ST.	2,000 GAL.	2017
04/12/2017	22 PROSPECT ST.	5,000 GAL.	2017
04/20/2017	10 JERRY ST.	500 GAL.	2017
10/03/2017	8 CRESCENT HEIGHTS	15 GAL.	2017
10/30/2017	1 OAK HILL RD.	2,000 GAL.	2017
10/30/2017	33 SHELLY AVE.	10 GAL.	2017



City of Fitchburg, Massachusetts
Waste Water Department

SSO EVENTS - FEB. 1, 2017 TO JAN. 31, 2018

February 1, 2018



Prepared by:
The City of Fitchburg Massachusetts, Waste Water,
GIS Engineer.

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