



COMMISSIONER

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

STREETS & PARKS

301 Broad Street
978-829-1900
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WASTEWATER

166 Boulder Drive, Suite 108
978-345-9622
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1200 Rindge Road
978-345-9616
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February 28, 2019

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 2018 Compliance Report. In this report we are covering the period from February 1, 2018 to January 31, 2019. 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 eight (8) 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), and the attached map includes all SSOs. A brief description of each event is as follows:

- 1) **410 Fifth Mass Turnpike, February 5** - The city was notified of a homeowner backing up in their basement bathroom. The City responded and jet the line, removing rags. The pipe condition is poor in this area and the pipe segment has been added to the problem area checklist. Approximately 10 gallons of sewerage discharged to the basement bathroom of the dwelling.
- 2) **569 Main Street, June 20** - During a rain event, the combined sewer on Elm Street surcharged and caused a flood in the basement of 569 Main Street. Approximately 1,500 gallons discharged from a basement bathroom. This area of the combined system on Elm Street has capacity issues in large rain events.
- 3) **212 Marshall Street, June 20** - During the same rain event that caused event No. 2, an additional capacity related issue in the combined system discharged 800 gallons to a basement apartment bathroom.

- 4) **101 Fitchburg Road, Westminster, MA, September 19** – The City responded to a break in the sewer force main from the City’s landfill on Fitchburg Road in Westminster. It was determined that the break was caused by a guardrail post piercing the force main. The guard rail was installed by MassDOT in the previous year during a resurfacing project. Approximately 3,000 gallons discharged to a depression and infiltrated into the ground. The force main was repaired the following day.
- 5) **192 Marshall Street, December 3** – The City was called to dwelling that reported sewage discharging from the house vent on the foundation wall of the house, without the property using water. The City responded and discovered the upstream manhole partially surcharged. The line was jetted and televised, and a new sewer brick was removed. It is assumed that the brick was dropped into the sewer when the road was resurfaced earlier in the year and manhole castings were adjusted. Approximately 40 gallons discharged out of the house vent and percolated into the ground.
- 6) **715 Westminster Street, January 7, 2019** – The City responded to a call from the Police Department about sewerage discharging from a manhole in this location. Upon response, the City jetted the line and relieved a blockage of rags from the sewer. The City followed up with a CCTV in the pipe segment, and confirmed that a sag was present in the pipeline at the blockage location. The sag was previously known to the City during past CCTV. As a result of the SSO, the City now checks this line segment as part of its “problem area checklist”. Approximately 25,000 gallons discharged to a catch basin and then to the North Nashua River.
- 7) **400 Rollstone Road, January 18, 2019** – A resident in the local neighborhood called the DPW and reported sewerage discharging from a manhole on an easement and into the nearby brook. Upon response, the city had noted evidence of a sewage discharge from a manhole on an easement behind 400 Rollstone Road, however no active discharge was occurring. The City determined the overflow occurred due to a blockage in a manhole downstream on Rollstone Road, from evidence of surcharge in the manhole. It was determined that a brick had fell out of the manhole chimney, and into the invert, causing a solids blockage. The line was cleaned and the brick was removed. The City plans to rebuild the manhole chimney in this location in the spring to prevent a similar incident. It is estimated that 100,000 gallons discharged to Sand Brook.
- 8) **491 Pearl Street, January 28, 2019** – The City was called to a dwelling that reported sewage discharging into the basement. Upon arrival, the City determined that the line was surcharged. The line was jetted and large amounts of grease were removed from the line. The line has flat pitch which appears to have led to grease settlement. There are no restaurants upstream of this location. The City added this sewer segment to its problem area checklist.

List of Dry-Weather CSO Events

The City experienced no dry weather CSO events (see Table 2, attached) during the reporting period, due to the City’s practice of inspecting regulators for sediment/debris build up after every rain storm.

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. Appendix A contains all logs from the SeeClickFix system for the private homeowner issues. 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.

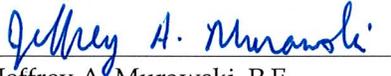
In the reporting year, the City completed submittal of its Capacity Assessment to the EPA/MassDEP, and also executed an agreement to complete Sewer System Evaluation Study (SSES) Phase IV. Phase IV includes complete multi-sensor inspection of the City's trunk sewer. The City also finished all Phase II field investigative work for SSES Phase II. The City also separated 27 combination manholes during the reporting year, and will be separating additional combination manholes in the coming year using a combination of in-house and outside forces.

Within the reporting period, the City also executed an agreement and began design on the CSO-7, 11, 39, and 48 Sewer Separation project. In addition to closing four CSO regulators, the City expects to permanently separate approximately 17 combination manholes within this project.

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,

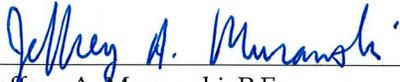


Jeffrey A. Murawski, P.E.
Fitchburg DPW Deputy Commissioner of Wastewater

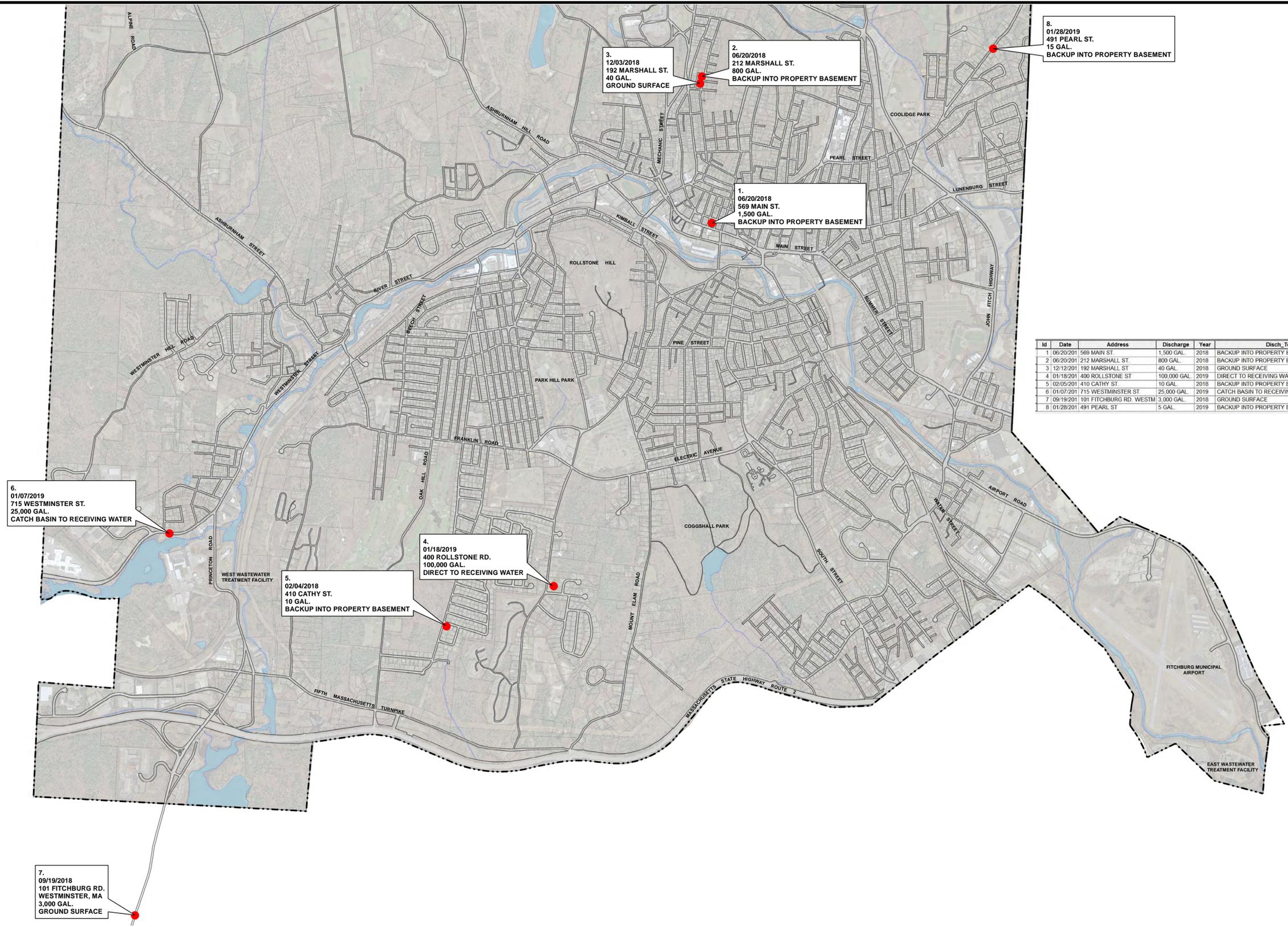
Attachments

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



Id	Date	Address	Discharge	Year	Disch. To
1	06/20/2018	569 MAIN ST.	1,500 GAL.	2018	BACKUP INTO PROPERTY BASEMENT
2	06/20/2018	212 MARSHALL ST.	800 GAL.	2018	BACKUP INTO PROPERTY BASEMENT
3	12/03/2018	192 MARSHALL ST.	40 GAL.	2018	GROUND SURFACE
4	01/18/2019	400 ROLLSTONE ST.	100,000 GAL.	2019	DIRECT TO RECEIVING WATER
5	02/04/2018	410 CATHY ST.	10 GAL.	2018	BACKUP INTO PROPERTY BASEMENT
6	01/07/2019	715 WESTMINSTER ST.	25,000 GAL.	2019	CATCH BASIN TO RECEIVING WATER
7	09/19/2018	101 FITCHBURG RD. WESTM	3,000 GAL.	2018	GROUND SURFACE
8	01/28/2019	491 PEARL ST.	5 GAL.	2019	BACKUP INTO PROPERTY BASEMENT

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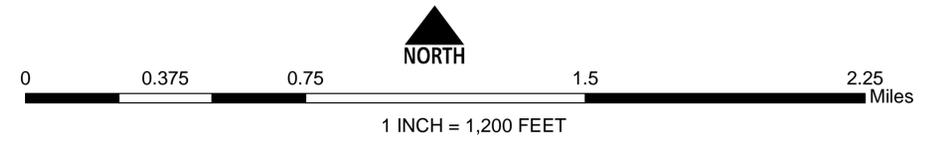
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491 PEARL ST.
5 GAL.
BACKUP INTO PROPERTY BASEMENT

7.
09/19/2018
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WESTMINSTER, MA
3,000 GAL.
GROUND SURFACE



City of Fitchburg, Massachusetts
Waste Water Department
SSO EVENTS - FEB. 1, 2018 TO JAN. 31, 2019
February 1, 2019



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

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