



# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

680 Peaverly Hill Road

Portsmouth N.H. 03801

(603) 427-1530 FAX (603) 427-1539

***VIA EMAIL***

November 30, 2021

Mark Pollins  
Director of Water Enforcement  
USEPA  
OECA  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Consent Decree 09-cv-283-PB  
Monthly Report on Compliance for October 2021  
City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Pollins:

In accordance with Consent Decree 09-cv-283-PB, Section V, item paragraph 20, dated August 12, 2009 and as amended by Consent Decree Modification filed July 2, 2012 and approved by the Court on February 15, 2013 and as amended by Consent Decree Second Modification, Section III, item paragraph 6, filed on April 1, 2016 and approved by the Court on September 28, 2016 the City of Portsmouth is submitting this monthly report on compliance.

The City has completed all Consent Decree construction milestones relative to the upgrade of the Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facility (“PI WWTF”). A summary of those milestones and completion dates are set forth in the ***Summary of Completed Work*** section. Remaining commitments relative to the PI WWTF are the ongoing obligation to meet the existing NPDES permit and the nitrogen removal obligations set forth Section IV, Paragraph 8 of the Consent Decree. That reporting is set forth in the ***Nitrogen Removal Reporting Summary*** attached.

The one remaining mitigation project described under the Consent Decree Second Modification, Section IV, is summarized under the ***Mitigation Project Ongoing*** section. Completed mitigation projects are shown on the ***Summary of Completed Work*** previously referenced.

The status of ongoing sewer separation projects that are part of the City’s Supplemental Compliance Plan are summarized under the ***Sewer Separation Projects Ongoing*** section.

**As required by the Consent Decree:**

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. Please contact me at (603) 766-1416 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Peter H. Rice, P.E.  
Director of Public Works

- cc: Solanch S. Pastrana-Del Valle, U.S. EPA New England – Region 1  
Tracy L. Wood, NHDES Wastewater Engineering Bureau Administrator  
Allen Brooks, Esq., Department of Justice, Environmental Protection Bureau Chief  
Tonia Bandrowicz, Senior Enforcement Counsel, U.S. EPA New England – Region 1  
David Gordon, Esq., U.S. Department of Justice  
Tom Irwin, Esq., Conservation Law Foundation  
Karen Conard, City Manager, City of Portsmouth  
Suzanne Woodland, Acting Deputy City Manager and Deputy City Attorney  
Brian Goetz, Deputy Director of Public Works  
Terry Desmarais, City Engineer

## ***SUMMARY OF COMPLETED WORK***

09-cv-283-PB SECTION	PI WWTF CONSTRUCTION MILESTONE	DATE COMPLETED
III.5.a.	Execute Contract to Construct Upgrades	August 25, 2016
III.5.b.	Submit Two Additional Milestones for EPA Review and Approval	November 29, 2016
III.5.b.	Additional Milestone 1: Transfer of the existing SCADA system to the new Headworks Building	October 18, 2017
III.5.b.	Additional Milestone 2: Startup and testing of the Secondary Influent Pump Station in the new Solids Building	May 7, 2019
III.5.c.	BAF Substantial Completion	December 31, 2019
III.5.d.	Achieve Compliance with NPDES Permit Limits	April 1, 2020

09-cv-283-PB SECTION	COMPLETED MITIGATION & SEWER SEPARATION PROJECTS	DATE COMPLETED
IV.8.a. Mitigation	Interim Enhanced Primary Treatment	January 9, 2018
IV.8.c. Mitigation	Stormwater Project	November 9, 2020
IV.8.e. Mitigation	Water Quality and Ecosystem Health Projects	April 2021
III.6.a. Sewer Separation Projects	Pleasant Street at the intersection with Court Street	November 2018
	McDonough Phase 3B: McDonough Street from Cornwall Street to Brewster Street and Langdon Street	June 2019
	Maplewood Avenue at Fairview Drive	May 2019
	Islington Street Ph 1: Columbia Street to Route 1 Bypass Overpass (Underwood Engineers letter attached dated 10/19/2021)	October 2021

**NOTE:**

- Detailed information on completed milestones, mitigation projects and commitments can be found in previous reports.
- Reports are published on the City's website: [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/wastewater/resources](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/wastewater/resources)  
scroll down the page to the *CONSENT DECREE REPORTS TO EPA* section

## ***NITROGEN REMOVAL REPORTING SUMMARY***

For a five-year period, commencing June 1, 2020 achieve a seasonal average total nitrogen (TN) effluent concentration from May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> of no greater than 8 mg/L and a monthly average total nitrogen effluent concentration no greater than 8 mg/L from June 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> for the Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facility with the upgrade.

The average concentration of effluent total nitrogen in the month of October 2021 was 5.1 mg/L TN. The report submitted with the City’s Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) for NPDES Permit NH0100234 is attached.

<i>Month Year</i>	<i>Average TN Concentration (mg/L)</i>	<i>Seasonal Average TN Concentration (mg/L) May – October*</i>
May 2020	9.5	5.4
June 2020	6.6	
July 2020	4.9	
August 2020	6.1	
September 2020	4.0	
October 2020	3.2	
November 2020	2.6	4.0
December 2020	3.0	
January 2021	3.0	
February 2021	4.2	
March 2021	4.0	
April 2021	3.0	
May 2021	5.2	4.0
June 2021	3.8	
July 2021	3.4	
August 2021	3.7	
September 2021	3.3	
October 2021	5.1	

\*Seasonal average concentration was calculated using the individual TN data points for the time period of the season.

## ***SEWER SEPARATION PROJECTS ONGOING***

This document identifies the sewer separation projects and infiltration and inflow project (Contract #1) approved by the EPA in a letter to the City dated January 24, 2018. EPA, with NHDES concurrence, approved the updated CSO Supplemental Compliance Plan and implementation schedule as contained in the plan. The City shall: complete the six sewer separation projects and the Contract No. 1 wastewater collection system rehabilitation project by no later than October 2023; complete the LTCP update by no later than October 2025; and provide project status on all seven projects as part of the monthly reports on compliance it will be submitting pursuant to Paragraph 6.a. of the Consent Decree Second Modification.

### **FLEET STREET: COURT ST TO HANOVER ST & PORTIONS OF ADJACENT STREETS**

<i>Project Name:</i>	<i>Current Status: (phase of work)</i>	<i>Anticipated Construction Completion Date:</i>
FLEET ST	PRELIMINARY DESIGN	TBD
<i>Comments:</i>		
The City executed an amendment with the consulting firm to advance the design drawings to the 75% level and expand the limits of the sewer separation project and to include a new drainage outfall for Fleet Street separated drainage.		

### **UNION STREET: MIDDLE ST TO STATE ST & SECTIONS OF COFFINS COURT & AUSTIN ST**

<i>Project Name:</i>	<i>Current Status: (phase of work)</i>	<i>Anticipated Construction Completion Date:</i>
UNION ST	ENGINEERING RFP ADVERTISED	TBD
<i>Comments:</i>		
Design work is underway. Property surveys to identify configuration of utility services and drains in the basement of each building within the project limits is moving forward.		
The project design scope has expanded to include sewer separation in the Willard Avenue area.		

### **SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT**

<i>Project Name:</i>	<i>Current Status: (phase of work)</i>	<i>Anticipated Construction Completion Date:</i>
CONTRACT NO. 1	FINAL DESIGN	TBD
<i>Comments:</i>		
The final design plans are being finalized by the consultant and permitting is underway. Bidding of the project is being put on hold in order to plan funding for the work. The work is still programmed to be completed by October 2023.		

## ***MITIGATION PROJECT ONGOING***

The remaining outstanding mitigation project described under the Consent Decree Second Modification, Section IV, is summarized below.

### **SAGAMORE AVENUE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT**

<i>Current Status:</i>	<i>Anticipated Completion Date:</i>
FINAL DESIGN	December 2022
<i>Comments:</i>	
<p>At the September 23, 2020 City Council meeting, the Portsmouth City Council adopted an approach that calls for the final design, permitting and bidding of the full project limits with 91 connections. Total funding authorized to date is \$4.4 million.</p> <p>The City received two bids on August 12, 2021 for the project. The bids exceeded the funding available and as a result, they were rejected. The bid package will be reconfigured and re-bid in November 2021.</p>	

**Peirce Island Effluent Nitrogen  
October 2021**

Date	Effluent Flow MGD	Effluent Ammonia as N mg/l	Effluent Nitrite/Nitrate-N mg/l	Effluent TKN mg/l	Total Nitrogen mg/l
10/1/2021	2.76				
10/2/2021	2.69				
10/3/2021	2.51				
10/4/2021	3.15				
10/5/2021	3.43	0.22	3.65	2.90	6.55
10/6/2021	2.97				
10/7/2021	2.85	0.21	2.93	3.30	6.23
10/8/2021	3.19				
10/9/2021	2.89				
10/10/2021	2.73				
10/11/2021	2.91				
10/12/2021	2.86	0.05	2.60	2.60	5.20
10/13/2021	2.74				
10/14/2021	2.66	0.23	1.97	2.30	4.27
10/15/2021	2.95				
10/16/2021	2.93				
10/17/2021	3.28				
10/18/2021	2.71				
10/19/2021	2.90	0.35	1.20	1.70	2.90
10/20/2021	2.68				
10/21/2021	2.60	0.31	2.12	2.20	4.32
10/22/2021	2.68				
10/23/2021	2.57				
10/24/2021	2.36				
10/25/2021	2.69				
10/26/2021	5.09	0.28	4.86	2.50	7.36
10/27/2021	4.74				
10/28/2021	3.72	0.16	2.91	1.40	4.31
10/29/2021	3.42				
10/30/2021	7.67				
10/31/2021	18.67				
Minimum	2.36	0.1	1.2	1.4	2.9
Maximum	7.67	0.4	4.9	3.3	7.4
Average	3.18	0.2	2.8	2.4	5.1

2370.00

October 19, 2021

Terry Desmarais, P.E.  
City Engineer  
Public Works Department  
680 Peverly Hill Road  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801

**Re: *Completion of Sewer Separation  
Islington Street Corridor Improvements – Phase 1***  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Dear Terry Desmarais,

Sewer separation work included with the Islington Street Corridor Improvements – Phase 1 was completed on October 12, 2021.

Per Consent Decree Second Modification 09-cv-283-PB, Paragraph 6.a, this project was identified as one of the six sewer separation projects to be completed by no later than October 2023. UE suggests that the EPA be notified of this milestone as part of the City's monthly report on compliance.

Please contact this office if there are any questions.

Very truly yours,  
UNDERWOOD ENGINEERS



Daniel J. Rochette, P.E.  
Project Manager

cc: David Desfosses – City of Portsmouth, Project Manager (via e-mail)