



# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH  
680 Peverly Hill Road  
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(603) 427-1530 FAX (603) 427-1539

***VIA EMAIL***

March 31, 2026

Joseph Theis, Acting Director  
Water Enforcement Division  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
U.S. EPA (2243A)  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Re: Consent Decree 09-cv-283-PB  
Monthly Report on Compliance for February 2026  
City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Theis,

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.

Outstanding are the City's obligations under its Supplemental Compliance Plan, referenced at paragraph 12.c of the Consent Decree. By letter dated April 18, 2024, EPA approved an updated schedule and project list. The status of that ongoing work is found in the *Supplemental Compliance Plan Project Status* section.

**Note: Completed Projects from the Supplemental Compliance Plan have been moved to the Summary of Completed Work.**

**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 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Peter Rice  
Director of Public Works  
(603) 766-1416

cc: Solanch S. Pastrana-Del Valle, U.S. EPA New England – Region 1  
Tracy L. Wood, NHDES Wastewater Engineering Bureau Administrator  
Christopher Aslin, Esq., Department of Justice, Environmental Protection Bureau Chief  
Jaegun Lee, 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, Regulatory Counsel  
Erich Fiedler, 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 Phase 1: Columbia Street to Route 1 Bypass Overpass	October 2021
	Sagamore Ave Extension Project	August 2023
	Union Street Project	October 2023
Supplemental Compliance Plan	Islington Street Phase 2	December 2025
	Willard Avenue Sewer Separation	December 2025

**NOTE:**

Detailed information on completed milestones, mitigation projects and commitments can be found in previous reports.

## *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 February 2026 was 4.4 mg/L TN. The report submitted with the City's Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) for NPDES Permit NH0100234 is attached.

	<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	
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	
November 2021	3.8	4.9
December 2021	4.6	
January 2022	6.5	
February 2022	5.6	
March 2022	4.0	
April 2022	5.2	
May 2022	5.0	4.6
June 2022	4.6	
July 2022	5.7	
August 2022	4.7	
September 2022	4.3	
October 2022	4.4	
November 2022	3.3	3.9
December 2022	3.4	
January 2023	3.8	
February 2023	4.3	
March 2023	4.6	
April 2023	3.7	
May 2023	3.8	
June 2023	3.6	
July 2023	3.9	

August 2023	3.7	3.9
September 2023	3.8	
October 2023	4.6	
November 2023	4.1	5.5
December 2023	4.6	
January 2024	5.5	
February 2024	5.4	
March 2024	5.8	
April 2024	7.8	
May 2024	5.2	5.3
June 2024	5.1	
July 2024	6.4	
August 2024	4.5	
September 2024	6.8	
October 2024	3.5	
November 2024	4.4	4.5
December 2024	4.7	
January 2025	4.7	
February 2025	4.2	
March 2025	5.1	
April 2025	4.1	
May 2025	5.3	5.3
June 2025	4.4	
July 2025	5.4	
August 2025	5.2	
September 2025	5.8	
October 2025	5.7	
November 2025	6.5	
December 2025	6.07	
January 2026	4.8	
February	4.4	

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

## ***SUPPLEMENTAL COMPLIANCE PLAN PROJCT STATUS***

This document identifies the sewer separation projects and infiltration and inflow projects approved by the EPA in a letter to the City dated April 14, 2024. Reporting is required pursuant to Paragraph 6.a. of the Consent Decree Second Modification.

<b>INFLOW AND INFLITRATION REDUCTION CONTRACT 1</b>	Required completion date:
	October 31, 2026
Current Status (phase of work)	Anticipated Construction Completion Date:
Contract Award	2026
<i>Comments:</i>	
In January, the City opened contractor bids and initiated reference checks on the apparent low bidder. In February, the City awarded the construction contract to National Water Main Cleaning Company.	

<b>FLEET STREET PHASE 1</b>	Required completion date:
	December 31, 2026
Current Status (phase of work)	Anticipated Construction Completion Date:
FINAL DESIGN	December 31, 2026
<i>Comments:</i>	
Design and permitting are in progress. The City submitted NHDES wetland permit application for outfall work and marsh restoration. In February, the City continued to engage CSX and Granite State Minerals in discussions to finalize required licenses and easements.	

<b>INFLOW AND INFILTRATION REDUCTION CONTRACT 2</b>	Required completion date:
	October 31, 2028
Current Status (phase of work)	Anticipated Construction Completion Date:
PRELIMINARY DESIGN	TBD
<i>Comments:</i>	
Contract 2 Sewer Rehabilitation is at approximately 30% design. The design is based on an SSES study completed by Woodard & Curran and updated by Underwood Engineers in 2020. In February, the City requested an updated plan and proposal for final design through bidding.	

<b>FLEET STREET PHASE 2</b>	Required completion date:
	December 31, 2028
Current Status (phase of work)	Anticipated Construction Completion Date:
Phase 2A – Construction	Phase 2A - Winter 2026
Phase 2B - Design	Phase 2B – 2028
<i>Comments:</i>	
The City awarded the Fleet Street Phase 2A construction contract to N. Granese & Sons. The City executed a Construction Administration contract with Underwood Engineers to oversee construction during the project. In February, N. Granese & Sons continued utility construction on schedule.	

<b>LONG TERM CONTROL PLAN UPDATE</b>	Required completion date:
	October 31, 2030
Current Status (phase of work)	Anticipated Completion Date:
Not started	October 31, 2030
<i>Comments:</i>	
The Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) Update was extended to 2030. The City intends to begin updates to the LTCP as projects listed in the consent decree are completed and monitored for effectiveness. Prior to LTCP deadlines, the City has applied for State Revolving Funds to perform updates to the Wastewater System Model.	

**Peirce Island Effluent Nitrogen**  
February, 2026

Date	EFF Flow MGD	EFF Ammonia as N mg/l	EFF Nitrate/Nitrite mg/l	EFF TKN mg/l	Total Nitrogen mg/l
2/1/2026	2.86				
2/2/2026	3.13	0.13	3.60	1.80	5.40
2/3/2026	2.77				
2/4/2026	3.02	0.07	2.40	1.80	4.20
2/5/2026	2.58				
2/6/2026	2.89				
2/7/2026	2.61				
2/8/2026	2.55				
2/9/2026	2.41	0.11	2.20	2.40	4.60
2/10/2026	2.65				
2/11/2026	2.68	0.08	2.28	2.10	4.40
2/12/2026	2.58				
2/13/2026	2.50				
2/14/2026	2.52				
2/15/2026	2.53				
2/16/2026	2.66	0.12	2.10	2.00	4.10
2/17/2026	2.71				
2/18/2026	2.75	0.12	2.50	2.10	4.60
2/19/2026	2.68				
2/20/2026	2.78				
2/21/2026	2.77				
2/22/2026	2.57				
2/23/2026	2.76	0.07	1.90	2.00	3.90
2/24/2026	2.75				
2/25/2026	2.65	0.05	2.00	2.20	4.20
2/26/2026	2.64				
2/27/2026	2.66				
2/28/2026	2.89				

Minimum	2.41	0.1	1.9	1.8	3.9
Maximum	3.13	0.1	3.6	2.4	5.4
Average	2.70	0.1	2.4	2.1	4.4

*Christopher Kelley*