

Collection System 2019

The Town of Elizabethtown's wastewater collection system consists of approximately 263,000 linear feet of gravity sewer pipe. The Town also owns and maintains 15 pumping stations or lift stations. The pump stations are equipped with automated controls, audible and visual alarms. Most have standby power and the rest have power receptacles for portable generators. Over half of the pump stations are connected to SCADA, a system that provides continuous monitoring. These pump stations operate twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The Town continues to upgrade the SCADA System on Water and Wastewater infrastructure. Several Lift Stations have also been updated or added to SCADA. The remaining Lift Stations have been introduced into the budget process to be equipped for SCADA.

The Town's Collections system operates under State permit # WQCS00154.

SSO's (Sanitary Sewer Overflows) occur when a problem in the system causes sewage to come out of manhole covers, service clean-outs, or plumbing fixtures. Everyday hundreds of thousands of gallons of wastewater begin the journey from homes and businesses, through kitchen sinks, bathtubs, toilets, and washing machines, to the collections system, and, ultimately, the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Town had zero (0) reportable SSO's this past year. The Town strives to have zero spills from the collection system. However, because pump stations are mechanical devices and sewer lines are subject to unavoidable clogs from grease, roots, so-called flushable wipes, construction debris, etc., all systems are subject to spills. In trying to prevent any blockages or the buildup of debris that may cause blockages in the collection system, staff uses video equipment for inspection and incorporates routine flushing for preventive maintenance.

In addition, the Town has a rapid response program with 24-hour on-call personnel to help mitigate spills. The Town also owns a high-pressure sewer flusher machine that is used extensively in the maintenance of the collection system. Town staff inspects and cleans at least 10% of the sewer lines each year. During the past year, flushing by Town staff cleaned over 26,397 linear feet of sewer lines.

Grease Control

Did you know that each year there are more than 15,000 sewer overflows in North Carolina? Many of these overflows are directly related to improper disposal of oil and grease in kitchen drains. Grease congeals in sewer pipes, which causes wastewater to flow back into homes and businesses or directly into waterway.



Wastewater collection lines are designed to handle three things; used water, human waste and toilet paper. It is very important to keep all foreign materials, such as grease and other household items, non-flushable products and debris from entering the sewer system.

The Town's oil and grease programs are designed to limit illegal discharges of fats, oils and grease from homes and businesses into the wastewater collection system. Small amounts of grease entering the collection system can accumulate over time causing blockages, which can harm the environment and cost thousands of dollars to clean up. The Town works continuously to both maintain the sewer system infrastructure and protect the environment.

You can help too.

- Please put used oils and cooking grease in collections containers for proper disposal.
- Remove oil and grease from kitchen utensils with scraper's or paper towels
- Place food scraps in trash containers.

All of us can work together to achieve our goals: providing you with reliable service and protecting the environment.