Combined Sewer System Public Notification Plan

for the

Sanitary District of Decatur

501 Dipper Lane
Decatur, Illinois 62522

March 2022

Introduction

As in many other central Illinois municipalities, the wastewater collection system in Decatur was constructed beginning in the early 20th century as a combined storm and sanitary system. Early sewer systems were designed to convey both dry and wet weather flows to the nearest receiving stream. When wastewater treatment facilities were constructed in the 1920s, diversion structures were installed at various points in the combined sewer system to carry dry weather flows to the treatment plant, and allow the more dilute wet weather flow to overflow without treatment. Although the construction of new combined sewers ended in the 1940s, combined sewers downtown and in the older residential areas of Decatur remain in use.

During the preparation of a Facilities Plan in 1976 for collection system and treatment facility improvements, the Sanitary District of Decatur (SDD) considered a number of alternatives for reducing the impacts of wet weather combined sewer overflows (CSOs). By 1985 sanitary sewer, storm sewer and pump station improvements were completed rerouting much of the high-strength industrial wastewater directly to the SDD treatment plant. Between 1986 and 1992, several outfall points were combined and four new CSO treatment facilities (CSOTFs) were constructed and began operation.

Three of the four CSOTFs (Lincoln Park, Oakland, and Seventh Ward) discharge to the Sangamon River at locations between the Lake Decatur dam and the SDD treatment plant discharge. This stretch of the Sangamon, approximately three miles in length, is made up primarily of overflow from the lake and during dry weather contains little flowing water. The fourth CSO facility (McKinley) is tributary to Spring Creek, an intermittent stream, and ultimately to Stevens Creek and the Sangamon River. Maps showing the locations of the treatment facilities are attached.

While discharges from the CSOs are influenced by several factors, in general a rainfall of one-quarter inch or more may be expected to result in activation of the CSOTFs. During many rainfall events all flow is captured in the treatment units, and the contents are returned to the main treatment plant for processing.

CSS Pollution Notification Plan

As required by NPDES Permit #IL0028321 Special Condition 17 the SDD sets forth in this document its CSS Public Notification Plan (CSS PNP). This Plan shall be implemented in compliance of the requirements of the Permit, and regulations, applicable to ensure the adequate notifications are issued to inform and protect the public health.

CSOTF General Information

The mean annual rainfall for Decatur, IL for the period of 2000-2020 was 42.8 inches and annual rainfall in 2020 was 41.49 inches[1]. As an example only, the following table summarizes discharges from the treatment facilities for 2020:

[1] National Weather Service - www.weather.gov

Month	No. of days discharge occurred	Millions of gallons discharged
January	2	107.6
February	2	3.78
March	2	16.6
April	3	21.04
May	4	42.65
June	4	77.76
July	3	35.67
August	1	0.22
September	1	0.18
October	1	5.9
November	1	9.9
December	1	1.22

For comparison purposes, the total design flow for the four CSO treatment facilities is 588.7 million gallons per day.

Public Notification Procedures & Information

1. Lighted signs are utilized at each of the CSO treatment facility locations to advise when the facility is in use. Additionally, various other signage is distributed near the CSO facilities to alert the public to the nature of the facilities.

2. Monthly discharge monitoring reports covering several years of data as submitted to the Illinois EPA are available for public review at: https://sddcleanwater.org/departments/operations/discharge-info/

3. Previous twelve (12) months of CSO Reports as submitted to the Illinois EPA are located on the SDD website at: https://sddcleanwater.org/departments/operations/cso-reports/

4. The SDD will conduct annual Public Meetings to notify the public of its on-going implementation of this Plan.

5. No water supply intakes, beaches, or significant primary contact areas exist between the SDD discharge point and Springfield, which is approximately 35 miles downstream. Therefore, additional potential notification measures such as news media notices or real-time notification of discharges are not proposed for routine CSO discharges.

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CSS PNP Attachment A – MAPS