

Director's Report

Maintenance—Keeping Things Humming

SCCMUA maintenance crews are consistently busy with various tasks in the collection system and the plant. With the weather finally breaking, the summer site cleanup has been ongoing including lawn mowing and landscaping cleanup.

With over 100 pumps in the collection system, issues with plugs and maintenance are just another day on the job for SCCMUA staff. A few of the items addressed this past month include discharge piping repairs at station 214 in Bath along with a new impeller installed on pump #2 at station 220 in Bath.

Parts have been continually arriving for the lift station CIP work in DeWitt Twp at stations 103, 106, and 109. Once all the parts have arrived, crews will start one station at a time, working for the next couple of months to revitalize these stations.

With spring weather, many times comes a disruption in power. Whether from a serve storm or ice and wind, power outages are unavoidable. This past month has continued with outages that started last

month with the ice storm we had. These outages can cause unintentional harm to some electrical equipment although this wasn't the case for the past events. We did find a few weak batteries in the system which maintain power to PLCs when the incoming utility power is out. These systems allow us to monitor levels until power is restored. Many of these stations have emergency standby power in the form of generators. These systems require routine maintenance. Generators can be very expensive to repair and parts fail regularly. An example of this are the transfer switch controller membranes. These are exposed to the elements and need to be replaced frequently to avoid damage to the control circuits on transfer switches, which control the transfer of power between the utility and stand by generator power. Two of these were repaired this month at station 116 in DeWitt Twp and station 218 in Bath Twp.

**Southern Clinton
County Municipal
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Administration

We are happy to report the 457 transfers has been completed, only after the mandatory 120 day wait imposed by Nationwide. The four day transfer was completed with few issues. All retirement-based funds offered by SCCMUA are now with MERS which holds the fiduciary responsibly as well.

SCCMUA had three operators write their wastewater certification exam the first week in May. We support our staff in receiving certification

in all areas of wastewater treatment and collection system processes.

The administrative secretary position will be vacant and we are going to evaluate our options for this position. It is difficult to fill and keep someone in.

Process—Making it Clean

All parameters of the NPDES permit were met.

The plant had an old visitor this month in the form of struvite. This substance is formed when the levels of magnesium, ammonium, and phosphates all meet perfect saturation levels. The availability of these substances is then driven into action by an increase in PH levels. The minimum PH for struvite formation is 7 and the high level is 12. This process is also multiplied by agitation (pumping, 45 deg bends etc.). SCCMUA has battled this before and is not uncommon in the digester system due to the compounding of nutrients. In the past, the addition of water to dilute and lower the ph has been relatively successful. The problem with struvite is, it can cause extreme damage to piping and pumping equipment. Struvite formation can form a greyish, pearlized coating or it can form crystals. Either form can break pump components or completely seal off pipes and valves. We caught this early enough that no extensive damage was caused. For now, water will be added to the supernatant decant chamber and we will monitor the struvite growth. We are research-

ing longer-term solutions which will involve a more aggressive approach in decreasing the PH levels in the supernatant system.

The RBC maintenance plan initiated two years ago will begin its third year later this month. This winter was lengthy and with cold temps comes cooler influent water temps which have typically produced excess biomass weights on the RBC's. This was not as prevalent this year. Weights did increase but not nearly to the extent of previous years. We have been unable to pin down what increases the weights during the winter months. This year we didn't have nearly this problem and can only attribute this to the work that has been done. It is still too early in the process to make a definitive conclusion as only two trains have been completed (one train per year).

There are multiple piping systems throughout the plant grounds. Some are single use purpose while others can be used for multiple purposes. Many systems can operate independently or be valved to operate for a different process. Most of the piping is original besides the new Digester. We evalu-

ate this piping every time a valve or pump is replaced. Most of the piping will last until a process change or an expansion is needed. One of these systems is the secondary sludge system which transfers accumulated solids from the bottom of the secondary clarifiers back to the primary clarifiers where it is collected and pumped to the digester system. This piping went through the chemical room which severely corroded the pipe. SCCMUA staff removed and repiped this system in plastic to protect the piping from future corrosion.

The PFAS/PFOA work has continued. We were able to eliminate one of the potential sources (John Henry), as no related products were found to contain PFAS related compounds. The DEQ asked POTW's with landfills that discharge leachate to the system, to apply for an extension request. This request was submitted as Granger is participating in a larger sampling plan while working with the Dept of Waste Mgmt. The sampling findings will be available by the end of the year with testing to begin in the fall.

Inspections—The Scoop on the Poop

Miss Dig requests have picked up with the construction season in full swing. This past month, there were 413 total tickets with 104 that needed to be staked.

The DeWitt Twp Quarry project has started back up. Four of the last five laterals have been installed.

There has been continued work on the comprehensive collection system repair list for the municipalities to use in planning collection repairs.

Bath school upgrades have been moving forward which included re-routing some of the sanitary sewer. SCCMUA staff and C2aE have been

working with the contractors on site.

The City has begun TV/clean work associated with the SAW grant. This work has progressed quickly in the sanitary sewers and will continue in the storm sewers.

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