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## Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority

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### Inside this issue:

Process—Making it Clean 2

Inspections—The Scoop on the Poop 2



Southern Clinton County  
Municipal Utilities  
Authority  
"The Clean Water People"

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### Maintenance—Keeping Things Humming

This past month, during the crews routine rounds, there were a couple of generator transfer switch issues discovered. At LS 219, we had a few unscheduled starts, and after investigating the reason, it was determined that it was the transfer switchboard. At LS 215, the generator would start while doing a scheduled transfer, but it would not automatically send the transfer switch from line power to emergency power. This was also determined to be a bad transfer switchboard. Both stations have been temporarily fixed, and new parts have been ordered.

At LS 117, the generator was having trouble starting at its scheduled start times, so the crew investigated the issue and found that it

had a bad coil pack. The team determined that it would be best to change all the spark plugs and all the coil packs.

During a power outage at LS 302, a safe pack and a MINI CAS failed. We replaced both with units we had in stock.

The team has continued to work with the contractors to help keep the project moving along as smoothly as possible. Today, they are assisting with moving the City and Watertown by-pass pumps and making entries to install new plugs in the line so that the contractors can line these pipes as part of the project.

### Administration

With a flurry of changes coming in 2025 related to sick time the need to source a new insurance carrier beginning January 1, 2026, our team has been working to ensure we will comply with new labor requirements, while also preparing to review new options for a new insurance provider for 2026. We were recently notified that our insurance carrier, PHP will no longer offer services beginning in 2026. Even though it might seem a little premature, we have already been diving deeply into potential options, as we need to know our go forward plan and its impact on the 2026 budget, as we will be starting this process in just a few months.

As we approach the end of the year and conduct our internal audit of expenditures, it's interesting to review the project's impact on the operating budget. We've seen a mix of unplanned spending, alongside notable savings resulting from the installation of new equipment and a lack of significant breakdowns. This "give and take" of costs has been interesting to observe throughout the year. However, we won't fully realize the impact of the project on our operating budget until mid-2026, once construction is complete and we are operating at full capacity with the updated plant and processes in place.

The team has also been attending many different sessions related to the operation and

maintenance of the new equipment, along with the end-of-year training for legislative impacts to ensure compliance moving into 2025.

**2024 final thoughts:** With the first rehab of the SCCMUA facility in full swing throughout the entire year, the team has grown in its ability and understanding of the innerworkings of our facility. This has afforded the opportunity for the team to see and handle complex issues with resolve. The team's makeup has also changed, with new team members in many areas getting thrown into the mix, adding to an already complex year. I could not be prouder of the entire group, and the growth has occurred, not without pain, but has only helped our team become more capable and confident in their abilities to move SCCMUA forward in the future. As we look ahead to 2025, the closing of one project opens the path to another. This includes a new partnership with Bioworks Energy to generate heat and power for our facility on-site. Additionally, the team at SCCMUA will be building the road map to upgrade our biological process, which has been untouched. These upcoming projects are all good things to keep us focused and excited as we enter the new year and work to provide new and improved solutions to our operation.

## **Process—Making it Clean**

NPDES Permit: We are pleased to report that all parameters of the NPDES permit were successfully met, with a total precipitation for the month of 3.3376.

The team has been keeping busy with routine maintenance while tending to any unforeseen issues as they arise. The C1 RBC train was quickly pumped out, and an air header under the first stage RBC was repaired. An abnormal wear pattern was noticed outside the RBC, indicating wear marks from something below the water surface. After quickly being pumped out, it was discovered that the air header bracket became loose from the concrete floor, allowing the header to stay afloat, continuously bouncing off the bottom of the RBC as it was in

motion. The air header was re-secured to the concrete floor, and the tank was restored. This was done within a day and a half to help preserve the microorganisms living in the media and allow instant treatment once they were back in service.

The A1 Train is currently in the process of being disinfected by chlorine for cleaning and inspection. The A1 train contains the new Brentwood technology taking the place of the last RBC in that train. Thorough cleaning will be done throughout the whole tank and around the Brentwood treatment to ensure proper air disbursement from the diffusers. After cleaning, any noted maintenance issues will be addressed to allow for proper operation.

The chlorine contact chamber has been pumped out and cleaned. Throughout the summer months, vegetation growth slowly appears on the walls and in the center column of the chamber. This is generally cleaned out once a year around fall. While this chamber is not in use anymore due to the newly added UV disinfection, it is ready for use in case of UV maintenance channels are required.

The main plant air compressors have been fully serviced and placed back into alternating operation. This service includes an oil change, belt replacement, and air filter replacement. It is generally done once every six months based on running hours. These compressors supply air throughout the main building and the new digester.

## **Inspections—The Scoop on the Poop**

### **Miss Dig Totals:**

A total of 244 tickets were checked by staff.  
- 26 tickets required marking

Inspections:  
- 8 household inspections were completed  
- seven new connections  
- one repair

### **Projects:**

Miss Dig tickets have finally begun to slow down. Staff participated in an online Miss Dig safety training. Staff evaluated a third-party software designed to manage tickets better. After reviewing the software and services, it was determined the benefits to SCCMUA did not justify the cost.

Plummer's Environmental had completed the 2024 annual cleaning and televising. A total of 64,076 of the scheduled 64,826 feet were cleaned, and 5 spot repairs were installed.

Staff completed one site plan review for Gary Lane Development in Bath Township.

The team has continued working on improving the GIS for migration to Ziptility. The Ziptility

migration is no small task. It can be complicated to efficiently extract information from these systems in a large download and make that information work well with the new system. This is a very time-consuming project, but it is very needed as it allows us to clean up the data that has been duplicated and missed.

