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Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority

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

3671 W. Herbison Rd.
DeWitt, MI 48820
517-669-8311
www.sccmua.com
www.facebook.com/sccmua

Maintenance—Keeping Things Humming

The team started off the period by tackling routine generator transfers and oil changes. With the number of generators in the system, this is always a steady, ongoing process that requires careful scheduling and persistence to complete efficiently. This routine service ensures reliability and readiness as we move into the colder months.

Additionally, the team handled several plugged pump issues across the system. Lift Stations 304, 116, 403, and 214 all experienced blockages that required quick attention. An unusual situation unfolded at LS 302, where one of our contractors was cleaning a nearby line. During their cleaning process, a large amount of aggregate was washed into the wet well, repeatedly getting drawn into the pump and causing it to trip out. It was a unique challenge to get everything cleared and functioning again.

The most intense situation occurred on a Saturday afternoon at LS 202. One pump plugged and tripped out entirely, while the second partially plugged—just enough to keep running, but not enough to handle the incoming flow. With the short retention time and the critical nature of the station, it quickly became an all-hands-on-deck response. The team worked quickly and efficiently to restore full pumping

capacity before any issues could develop. Thanks to their quick action, all situations were resolved in a timely manner without incident.

In addition to pump maintenance, the crew addressed several electrical and control issues as well. High floats failed at LS 401 and LS 212, while a low float failed at LS 404; all were replaced promptly. At LS 405, the team replaced a failed air relief on the force main, and at LS 201, they cleaned the vortex on the force main to ensure proper function. A PLC issue at LS 202 also required attention—when powered down, the system had reverted to its original programming, which no longer matched current operational parameters. The issue was resolved by resetting and updating the components to their correct configuration.

Beyond system maintenance, the team took advantage of the seasonal slowdown at the plant expansion project and completed one of the larger projects on the schedule—the installation of the new Bath Township tower. This project required significant planning and coordination to set the base and stand the tower safely. A special thanks goes out to Bath Township DPW for their assistance in digging the foundation hole, helping move the project smoothly from planning to completion.

Administration

In preparation for the new healthcare benefit that comes into effect on December 1st, the team is working to train and communicate the changes and updates to all team members. Our third party benefits provider will be on-site October 22nd to ensure that all team members understand the new health benefit, can ask questions, and learn more about all of the other fringe benefits SCCMUA offers. Enrollment will be a month early this year, in order to avoid any issues with PHP ending service at the end of the year, and we want to ensure that we and our employees are prepared.

The team is also focused on closing the SRF project as soon as we can, as we will be beginning our third year of the project being open. We are 95 % complete and need to get the final touches put in place. Some will not be able to happen until February of 2026 as we wait for the delivery of a few critical pieces.

Continued efforts are also being directed to the Chandler Rd project as the group looks to get the project out to bid by the end of the year at the latest. There's a lot of work to get it to the finish line but things appear to be falling in line.



Process—Making it Clean

NPDES Permit: All NPDES permit limits were met in the month of September. Total precipitation for September was 2.266.

Staff continue to demonstrate a proactive and preventative approach toward maintenance and operations. Regular preventative maintenance activities were completed to ensure that all equipment remains in optimal working condition. These tasks included scheduled pump oil changes, checking and adjusting belt tightness, and performing valve exercising throughout the facility. By maintaining a consistent preventative maintenance routine, staff help to minimize unexpected downtime, identify issues before they escalate, and extend the service life of critical equipment across the plant.

During the month, staff successfully replaced two air-actuated valves on the sludge transfer line located within the sludge digester system. The existing valves had begun to show signs of wear and pass through, which was impacting the efficiency of sludge movement be-

tween process paths. The new air-actuated valves have restored reliable and responsive operation of the sludge transfer system. This proactive replacement not only improves daily performance but also helps prevent potential process upsets and unplanned maintenance events in the future.

Staff also completed the cleaning and restoration of a plugged supernate line that had become filled with struvite deposits. Struvite is a crystal-like mineral compound that naturally forms inside supernate lines as a result of chemical reactions between magnesium, ammonium, and phosphate in the wastewater process. Over time, these deposits had built up along the inner walls of the pipe, restricting flow and causing operational inefficiencies. The team carefully removed the struvite buildup and flushed the line to restore full flow capacity. Following this work, staff have increased monitoring of supernate line conditions to identify

early signs of buildup and take corrective action before future blockages occur.

Additionally, staff performed scheduled maintenance on the secondary east clarifier. This included a detailed inspection of all bracketry and mechanical components to identify any excessive play, wear, or movement. All grease points and moving parts were lubricated according to manufacturer recommendations to ensure smooth and reliable operation. The inspection confirmed that all mechanical linkages are in sound condition, and lubrication will help prevent premature wear. Maintaining the clarifiers in top condition is essential for consistent settling performance and overall treatment process stability.

Overall, the proactive efforts of plant staff this month have helped sustain the reliability, safety, and efficiency of the wastewater treatment process. Continuous attention to detail, preventative maintenance, and teamwork continue to play a key role in the successful operation of the facility.

Inspections—The Scoop on the Poop

Miss Dig Totals:

Miss Dig Requests: 479
Miss Digs Marked: 19
Inspection Services: 12 (5 new connections, and 7 repairs).

Projects:

During September, staff dedicated significant time to inspecting force main air relief valves and clean outs. As part of this effort:

- Photos of all inspections were uploaded to Ziptility for documentation.
- Damaged air relief valves were identified and replaced.
- Numerous clean outs were found to be buried.
- Staff successfully located and documented all clean outs.
- Plans are in place to raise the buried clean outs in the near future.

Ziptility staff successfully uploaded the majority of the 8,000+ lead sheets into the system. Of these, 430 lead sheets required manual linking due to issues such as misspelled street names, incorrect

address numbers, or outdated addresses. SCC-MUA staff worked diligently to review and accurately match all 430 lead sheets, ensuring complete and accurate documentation.

Staff continues reviewing the 2024 cctv inspections from Plummer's Environmental. Data from the inspections is incorporated into improving the GIS and Lucity asset management for the migration to Ziptility.

Several other projects remain "in the wind" at this time.

Plummer's Environmental started cleaning and televising September 2. A total of 65,000 feet will be cleaned and televised this year. Plummer's was able to clean and televise nearly 25,000 feet during the month of September.

