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Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority

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"The Clean Water People"

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Maintenance—Keeping Things Humming

The team wrapped up the latest round of generator battery replacements, and during the process they uncovered a faulty block heater at Lift Station 401, which was promptly addressed. Not long after, an after-hours power outage required staff to be called in, hauling generators out to a few stations that lacked backup power to keep operations running smoothly.

At Lift Station 301, the crew investigated what was initially suspected to be a plugged pump. After digging deeper into the issue, they discovered the real culprit—a short to ground. The pump was removed and sent back to the manufacturer for evaluation, with hopes that the repair may be at least partially covered.

Several other stations faced pump plugging issues throughout the month, including LS 403, LS 219, LS 119, and LS 214. Each of

these pumps was cleared, serviced, and returned to normal operation.

Around the plant, the team stayed busy with additional projects. They assisted with cleaning the bottom of the Primary Clarifier, drained and cleaned the clear well, and replaced the low float at Sandhill. At LS 501, the drive line was greased, and both the cooling fluid and cooling fluid line were changed out.

The crew also performed modifications to a Gorman-Rupp wear plate, adjustments that have proven effective in reducing pump ragging. Lastly, a manhole entry was made to clear a plugged internal drop, and while the crew was inside, they improved the setup so the area can be accessed easily from ground level in the future.

Administration

The team has been working on 2026 plans, both project and budget-related. This will be the ongoing workload for the next handful of months. The group reviews plans along with CIP items to do our best on predicted critical points and implement replacement or projects before failure happens, in the same sense, working to get every last bit of usable life out of the assets.

The team is also working on closing out the year as 2025 comes to an end; the fiscal year ends as well. The team aims to complete projects and order planned replacements before the end of the year.

This time of year, is also a good time to reflect on lessons learned and implement plans/ procedures to avoid relearning the same lessons. With many new systems now in operation across the plant,

lessons have come more frequent, but our young team has adapted and applied those lessons well, moving things forward at an impressive rate.



Process—Making it Clean

All parameters under our NPDES permit were met. Total precipitation for the month of November was 1.172". There were no issues with sampling or reporting, and overall effluent quality stayed comfortably within permit limits. Operations stayed consistent, and we didn't experience any unexpected changes in influent strength or flow that could have affected performance.

Plant staff stayed busy handling routine preventative maintenance work. This included performing oil changes on various pieces of equipment, checking and tightening belts, and keeping up with the typical PM duties that help everything run reliably. Operators also

spent time cleaning around the facility, making sure walkways, equipment areas, and general workspaces stayed clear and in good condition. These small day-to-day tasks go a long way in preventing bigger problems down the road.

With colder weather settling in, staff focused on getting the plant ready for winter. The primary and secondary clarifiers that won't be running during the winter months were fully winterized. This preparation helps protect equipment from freezing conditions and prevents unnecessary wear or damage while they're offline.

A larger project this month involved addressing algae buildup in the clearwell. We had been seeing issues where algae and other debris were getting pulled into the effluent pump, eventually plugging it and creating performance problems. To get ahead of this, staff pumped the clearwell down for a full cleaning and inspection. During the inspection, operators found that the suction pipe's location in the center pit was contributing to the problem. To fix this, the suction pipe was cut shorter and repositioned, so it no longer pulls water so close to the pit where debris tends to settle. This adjustment should greatly reduce plugging issues and help the effluent pump run more consistently.

Inspections—The Scoop on the Poop

Miss Dig Totals:

A total of 328 tickets were checked by staff.

- 13 tickets required marking

Inspections:

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

Overview

During November, the team continued inspections of system manholes. These efforts are part of the ongoing system assessment and documentation initiative.

Inspection Activities:

- All inspection photos were uploaded to Ziptility for comprehensive documentation and record-keeping.
- Numerous cleanouts and several manholes were discovered to be buried. Work orders have been generated to raise these structures to grade.
- Staff successfully located and documented all cleanouts within the system.

Data Management and Documentation

Staff has continued integrating record drawings and attaching inspection photos within the platform. Additionally, staff continue to review the 2024 CCTV inspection data provided by

Plummer's Environmental, incorporating findings to enhance the GIS and Lucity asset management systems in preparation for migration to Ziptility.

CCTV Cleaning and Televising

Plummer's Environmental commenced cleaning and televising operations on September 2, with a goal of completing 65,000 feet of sewer line in 2025. During November, approximately 24,000 feet were successfully cleaned and televised. Less than 4,000 remained to be completed in the month of December, which was completed on 12-9. Plummer's has begun to install 12 spot repairs, 7 in DeWitt Twp, 3 in the City of DeWitt, and 2 in Watertown Twp.

Development Coordination

- Staff continue to coordinate with developers on several active and proposed projects. Currently:
- Staff reviewed revised plans for a development in DeWitt Twp and impacts to future growth beyond the development.
 - Staff continued to review plans for a development in Bath Township.
 - Two new reviews were submitted the first few days of December and will be reviewed by staff.

Several additional projects are being discussed, minimal progress has been made on those at this time.