



WASTEWATER TREATMENT ACTIVITY BRIEFING SEPTEMBER 2025

- Monthly testing of copper, sulfate, and chloride levels in the effluent returned results within regulatory standards.
- As construction nears completion, wastewater levels have decreased. Operators redirected flow into a single ditch, which stabilized solids temporarily. However, this led to a rise in the sludge blanket in the south clarifier, increasing torque on the arm. To alleviate this, flow from the north clarifier was stopped, but the issue persisted. The south clarifier was drained and thick sludge was pumped out. As flows increased again, the south clarifier was reactivated with residual sludge still present. After reviewing blueprints and troubleshooting, Terry implemented a solution involving intermittent operation of the clarifier. This allowed sludge to return to the system via RAS. The sludge eventually broke loose, though it emitted a strong odor and appeared black. Lab results confirmed that solids had accumulated in the south ditch, which had previously been taken offline. By the end of the week, solids returned to high-normal levels.
- A meeting was held with the landfill to discuss strategies for reducing PFAS concentrations entering the plant. Several options are under consideration, pending implementation timelines.
- Schirmer Lift Station (9/5): High runtime prompted an evaluation, revealing that pump #2's assembly rotation needed adjustment due to misalignment with the weir plate.
- Mill Pond Lift Station: Pump #2 experienced a clog and was shut down. It was cleared after the weekend. Everything is up and running.
- During weekly preventive maintenance, a leak was discovered in the generator. Cummins was contacted and determined a water pump replacement was necessary. A quote was provided, and repairs were completed on the 23rd. The temperature line also requires replacement.
- A power surge on the 21st, caused by storms, disabled pumps at Schirmer Lift Station. Terry used a generator to pump down the station, but it was insufficient. Vacco was called in to assist. Both pumps were off line and needed to be repaired. Hein's was brought in to repair the pumps. One drive was restored, the other one was more difficult due it being reset during the surge. All is up and running.
- The UV channel at the plant was also affected by the power surge and remains offline. A new panel was installed by Mike Baker, but further inspection revealed burnt flex boards. Additional components and fuses were ordered from Wedeco. In the interim, chlorine and bleach are being used to maintain water treatment dosage.
- Nelco Water replaced the canisters after a red light indicated they were no longer functional.
- Zoey attended the Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP) seminar in Bath, Michigan to enhance understanding of Michigan's IPP protocols. Buchanan received an Appreciation Award for 40 years of continuous service.
- Terry and Zoey also completed a 3-day C and D Municipal Exam Prep training in preparation for their November certification exams.
- The facility completed 180 preventive maintenance work orders. Tasks ranged from routine equipment checks to complex repairs requiring significant labor.