

# Sanitary Sewer Overflows

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## Why Do Sewer Systems Fail

- Many systems perform poorly because of minimal maintenance
- Inadequate investment because of “out-of-sight, out-of-mind”
- In-flow and Infiltration (I & I)
- Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)

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## Regulatory History

- 1999-EPA directed by Clinton Administration to create a regulation to control Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)
- 2001-Proposed SSO rule signed by EPA Administrator but then withdrawn from consideration by the incoming President.

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## Major Components of the Withdrawn Regulation

- Record keeping and reporting of SSOs
- Public notification of SSOs
- Capacity Assurance, Management, Operation, and Maintenance (CMOM)
- Prohibition of SSOs to waters of the US

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## Satellite Sewer System Program

- The withdrawn EPA rule resulted in the issuance of the General Permit for Satellite Sewer Systems by SCDHEC
- Basic requirements:
  - Provide company/owner information
  - Properly operate and maintain the system
  - Report sewer system releases

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## 1998 SSO Activities

- Published the SC Sanitary Sewer Overflow Compliance and Enforcement Strategy
- Letter to all permit holders
- SSO reporting form
- Collection system O&M evaluation checklist
- Pump Station O&M evaluation checklist

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## Current NPDES Requirements

- Current NPDES regulations require:
  - Proper operation and maintenance of permitted wastewater systems, which includes the collection system
  - Permittee to take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of a NPDES permit

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## Initial Response

- Stop the Overflow
- Proper cleanup of spilled material
- Determine the cause of the overflow
- Take corrective action to prevent or minimize the possibility of a reoccurrence.

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## What to Report

- Over 500 Gallons
- Any amount that enters or can reasonably be expected to enter waters of the state
- Any amount that can impact human health



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## How to Report

- Within 24 hours of discovery, contact DHEC by phone/FAX/Email
  - During business hours, contact closest DHEC Area office
  - After hours and weekends, call DHEC emergency response number: 888-481-0125
- Within 5 days of discovery, email or FAX the written report (form DHEC 3685) to:
  - [stoudecdw@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:stoudecdw@dhec.sc.gov)
  - FAX: 803-898-4215

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## Future Electronic Reporting

- Federal Electronic Reporting Rule requires electronic reporting by 12/22/2020
- DHEC is in the process of deploying a website to collect the reports
- You will be required to set up an account in order to file reports electronically
- Electronic reporting will be required for all NPDES programs

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# Questions?

■ You can contact me at:

- [stoudedw@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:stoudedw@dhec.sc.gov)
- 803-898-4209

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