



Project Update – December 15, 2015

Last week the North Beach Wet Weather Storage Facility was put to the test with back-to-back record storms in our area. The North Beach Pump Station sent as much wastewater and stormwater as possible to the Carkeek Wet Weather Facility, and the storage tank filled and emptied three times over the stormy period. These storms resulted in a lot of storage and treatment, and still caused combined sewer overflows – both treated and untreated- throughout the combined sewer area, in both the City’s and the County’s system.

How did the new North Beach Wet Weather Facility perform during recent storms?

During this stormy period, facility performed as designed; when we crunch all the data, we’ll let you know how much it stored. What we do know now is that:

- The storage tank filled and emptied at least three times, and was operational again on Saturday,
- The system experienced a limited period of CSO discharge during the height of the storm, and
- The discharge occurred only through the main outfall to Puget Sound; larger piping was installed as part of this project to get more flows to the pump station and reduce potential for overflows to the beach.

Even with the facility working as designed, a CSO discharge did occur – why is that?

Those of you who follow the real-time CSO notification site may have noticed that North Beach still experienced a discharge (kingcounty.gov/services/environment/wastewater/cso-status.aspx). While this project is designed to meet standards of no more than one discharge per year on a long term average, the outfalls still act as relief valves for large, successive storms like the ones we experienced last week. This relief valve prevents overflows into homes and streets.

The permitting standard of one discharge per year on a long term standard means that we may have no discharges in years without triggering storms, and multiple discharges in years that have several storms that fill the system.

How do we know if we are meeting the permitting standard?

WTD will monitor the system and continue reporting to the Department of Ecology as we do each year. Because the number of storms in a winter can vary each year, we will look at multiple years of data before we confirm that we’re meeting the standard. If you are interested in viewing our annual reports, learning about rules and regulations, or any other aspect of Combined Sewer Overflow Control, please visit kingcounty.gov/services/environment/wastewater/cso.

But I saw sewer overflow signs on the beach during the storms- what happened?

Seattle Public Utilities experienced a problem with their system and took appropriate action to post the beach for a sewer overflow. If you see a sign indicating an overflow has occurred from either the City’s or County’s sewer system, you can call the number on the sign for more information.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Construction Hotline: 206-296-7372

Leave a message, and a project team member will return your call during business hours.

Project Contact: Monica Van der Vieren, monica.vandervieren@kingcounty.gov

Project Website: www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/NBeachCSOStorage

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS AVAILABLE

206-477-5371 / 711 (TTY RELAY)