



Tisbury WWTF Wastewater Treatment Facility

Town of Tisbury
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Sewer Advisory
Board of Selectmen
DPW

5/18/2020

Report on 9 Main St. Vineyard Haven;

On May 8, 2020 we had already noted steadily increasing pump run hours at the Mansion House pump stations on our High Tide cloud reporting. Upon inspection, with the building mostly empty due to the quarantine, substantial flow was still occurring to the station, estimated then at 3 GPM, conservatively. This would have likely escaped notice under normal conditions, as this site is one of the largest users in town

We requested that the maintenance person there check the water meters to see if flow was passing through the building to the station due to a running fixture there. This was not the case. We needed the flow to stop in order to work on the station. One of the pumps was not seated correctly, causing the substantial flow into the station to backflow into the secondary chamber, leading an already unseemly number of run hours to double.

Shortly thereafter, a valve somewhere in the building was closed, and the flow to the station ceased. Within a few minutes, the geothermal heat exchanger nearby began to overflow and discharge groundwater into the alley. Standing water appeared in the dirt lot nearby.

There is some sort of leaching bed at the site to return groundwater to the ground. It does not seem to be functioning well enough to return the groundwater entering the building in enough volume. This overflow was being pumped to wastewater instead.

CMR 314:

Inflow means water other than sanitary flow that enters a sewer system (including sewer connections) from sources that include, but are not limited to, roof leaders, cellar drains, yard drains, area drains, drains from springs and swampy areas, manhole covers, cross connections between storm sewers and sanitary sewers, catch basins, cooling towers, storm waters, surface runoff, street wash waters, or drainage. Inflow does not include and is distinguished from, infiltration.

Such discharges are prohibited. How long this connection to the dewatering pumps has been in place, and how long and at what times it has been in use, and how it was introduced into the plumbing, are relevant questions.

One GPD/minute=1440 GPD.

Attached are plant flows from 2019 and 2020. We tracked flows since this came up, for baseline. Even factoring in the reduced flows to the facility due to the quarantine, a substantial amount of inflow, previously disguised by the sewer flows from this large sewer customer, is indicated. The flow directed to the storm drain system at present has created another set of concerns for DPW, now that the flow to sanitary sewer has been halted.

David Thompson, Tisbury WWTF