



# OPERATION Ripple Effect™

## SIMPLE STEPS: BIG BENEFITS FOR THE MOHAWK RIVER

### PROJECT BULLETIN

Normally, our sanitary sewer system has enough capacity to operate properly. But, when we get heavy rains or sudden snow melts, stormwater overwhelms the system and causes overflows into the Mohawk River. That stormwater runoff enters the sanitary sewer system from multiple sources: deteriorated and damaged public sanitary sewers; and private property connections, such as roof leaders and sump pumps.

Operation Ripple Effect is a program of the Oneida County Sewer District that asks residents, businesses, and municipalities to do their part to reduce overflows. Together, we can help keep the Mohawk River clean.

## MAKING PROGRESS: CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON UPGRADES TO WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT

Construction has begun on a five-year project to upgrade the Water Pollution Control Plant. The more than 50-year-old treatment plant on Leland Avenue is being modernized to become a more environmentally sustainable and technologically advanced facility.

Not only will this upgrade satisfy New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Consent Order requirements to reduce sanitary sewer overflows into the Mohawk River, but it will also assist the City of Utica with treatment elements of its Long-Term Control Plan. Oneida County has obtained grants from New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and New York State Empire State Development, as well as low-interest financing and principal forgiveness through New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation to fund the project, currently estimated at \$265 million.

The five-year agenda includes:

- ◆ **2016-2019:** Biosolids handling technology upgrades, including the installation of new anaerobic digesters.
- ◆ **2016-2019:** The development of the ability to convert methane gas from the anaerobic digesters into combined heat and power.
- ◆ **2017-2021:** Capacity for split-flow treatment, including the addition of a new sanitary pump station, grit facilities, settling tanks, and high-rate disinfection system.
- ◆ **2017-2019:** Upgrades to the Sauquoit Creek Pumping Station, construction of a second force main to the Water Pollution Control Plant, and improvements to the Barnes Avenue Pumping Station.
- ◆ **2017-2021:** Treatment process improvements, including upgrades to the existing raw waste pump station, grit removal system replacement, and secondary treatment upgrades.
- ◆ **Ongoing through 2021:** Addressing aging infrastructure, including HVAC, electrical, structural, roofing, doors, windows, and architectural improvements.

In addition to the upgrades at the plant, approximately 104 miles of sanitary sewer have been repaired through the Oneida County Sewer District's Operation Ripple Effect™ program.



## SIMPLE STEPS: How YOU Can Help

Residents within the OCSO can also help solve the problem of overflows with individual actions that can add up to widespread improvements to the system.

- ◆ **Reroute:** Prevent clean water from entering the sanitary sewer system by disconnecting your downspout and sump pump from the sanitary sewer system.
- ◆ **Reclaim:** Capture stormwater in a rain barrel for use at a later time. There are many types of rain barrels available to coordinate with your home — choose a simple rustic look or a more decorative, formal style. You can even get rain barrels that double as a flowerpot!
- ◆ **Recharge:** Divert water away from your home and into a rain garden. This is a unique and natural way to beautify your yard and protect the environment at the same time.

**LEARN MORE! Visit [RippleEffectOCSD.org](http://RippleEffectOCSD.org)**



Contact [cmanion@paigegroup.com](mailto:cmanion@paigegroup.com) to schedule a briefing. For more news and reports, visit [www.sewerrehabocsd.org](http://www.sewerrehabocsd.org).

An Initiative of the Oneida County Sewer District

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