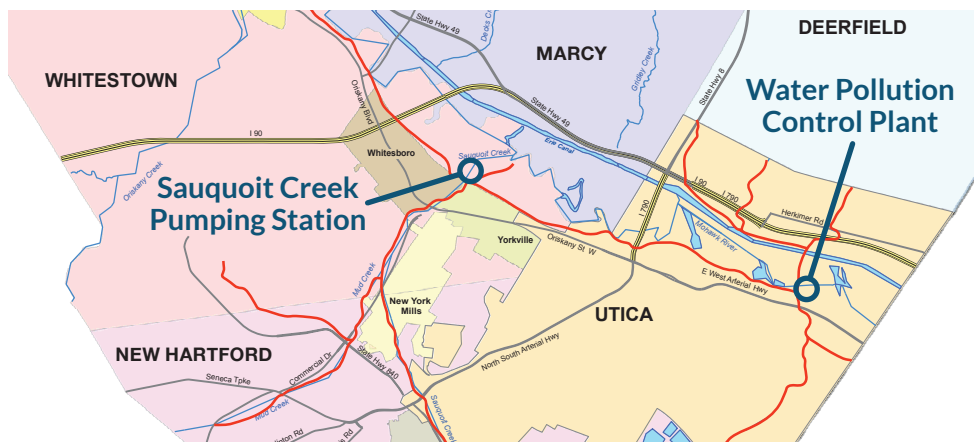




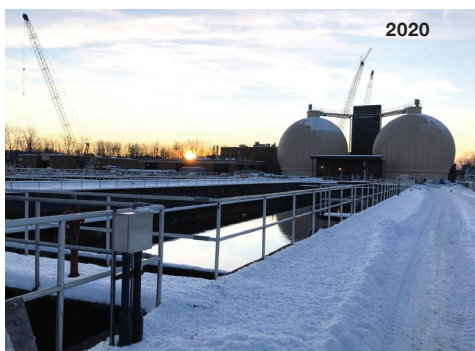
## Project Spotlight:

# Water Pollution Control Plant Upgrades



For the last four years, significant construction upgrades have progressed at the Oneida County Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) to mitigate sanitary sewer overflows into the Mohawk River. Through partnership and coordination with the city of Utica, the design of the WPCP upgrades include a “split flow” treatment process that effectively doubles the capacity for wet weather operating conditions. This enables the WPCP to cost effectively treat increased flows in both sanitary and combined sewage, which benefits the requirements of Oneida County’s Consent Order with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the city of Utica’s long-term control plan (LTCP).

As the 2021 NYSDEC Consent Order deadline nears for work on the county’s system to be completed, here’s an overview of the construction projects and some of the major milestones.



## Project Highlights

- **Plant capacity is being doubled** from 55 million gallons per day to 111 million gallons. This will provide for increased capacity for both sanitary sewage and wet weather treatment.

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## History

The Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) upgrades required a comprehensive planning effort to address:

1. Sanitary sewer overflows at the Sauquoit Creek Pumping Station,
2. Upgrades to the WPCP’s aging facilities, and
3. The increase in capacity to handle resulting and future flows.

By expanding the capacity and functionality of the WPCP, the upgrades have been designed to accommodate combined sewage overflow (CSO) from the city of Utica. This promotes an efficient and cost-effective way to manage CSO at the WPCP while enabling the city to focus its resources on upgrades and improvements to its sewer system. Because of the county/city partnership, the city was able to avoid building its own stand-alone CSO treatment facility at net savings (considering both capital and operational costs) to the city’s rate payers.

# Project Highlights

Continued from front page.



- The plant decommissioned its incinerators in 2019, reducing air emissions. It now exclusively runs a pair of anaerobic digesters to process wastewater sludge and sources separated organic food waste from the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority. **The biogas generated produces up to 600kW of electricity, approximately 25% of the WPCP's electrical power demand.** Power production capacity may increase as the Authority processes additional food waste.



- Combined sewage flows will be treated in parallel with the separate sanitary flows conveyed from the rest of the Oneida County Sewer District. This will allow combined flows to receive disinfection to comply with EPA regulations while sanitary flows receive secondary treatment to comply with the Clean Water Act. This unique system ensures that the capacity of the secondary treatment system is always maximized to treat non-CSO.



- A new influent pumping station, clarifier tanks, and disinfection tanks are in construction. Once complete, **these processes will increase plant capacity.** Completion is anticipated in late 2021.

- A new 42-inch diameter force main directly from the Sauquoit Creek Pumping Station (SCPS) to the plant is approximately 60% completed. This, along with rehabilitation of the existing 30-inch force main, **will increase the capacity of the SCPS**, thereby mitigating the sanitary sewer overflow (SSO).



- **Control gates are being installed** at the plant to provide resiliency and protect its integrity during extreme wet weather events that are becoming more common with climate change.
- The **physical condition of the plant is being improved** through rehabilitation of its buildings, office space, and other critical areas that have not been updated in 50 years.

## Our Mission

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, including deteriorated and damaged public sanitary sewers and private property connections, such as roof leaders and sump pumps.



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## Consumer Tip:

### Properly Dispose of So-Called 'Flushable' Wipes



Flushable wipes might seem like the answer to the nation's perceived scarcity of toilet paper, but these items have a regional impact on the local sanitary sewers, pumping stations, and the Oneida County Water Pollution Control Plant.

Unlike toilet paper, 'flushable' wipes do not easily break down once flushed down the toilet. Instead, they can clog pipes and stretch and wrap around pumps and other wastewater equipment causing breakdowns and expensive repairs. If you decide to use wipes, please dispose of them in the garbage.

Flushable wipes aren't the only item that should never go down the drain. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation recently offered guidance on what should not go down the drain, which include:

- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Disinfectant wipes
- Personal hygiene products
- Any paper products other than toilet paper (e.g., paper towels, facial tissue, paper napkins)



For more information on best practices and household impacts on the sewer system, visit [RippleEffectOCSD.org](http://RippleEffectOCSD.org).



Anthony J. Picente Jr., County Executive  
Steven P. Devan, P.E., Commissioner  
Department of Water Quality Control and Water Pollution

**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.

Contact [info@paigegroup.com](mailto:info@paigegroup.com) to schedule a briefing.  
For more news and reports, visit [www.RippleEffectOCSD.org](http://www.RippleEffectOCSD.org).  
An Initiative of the Oneida County Sewer District