



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Untreated Wastewater Released into Chicopee River and Connecticut River

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is notifying area residents and downstream communities of the unintended release of untreated wastewater into the Chicopee and Connecticut Rivers last night and this morning. These were separate, and unrelated events.

On Tuesday, August 4, 2020, a storm-related utility outage and subsequent back-up generator power failure at the Indian Orchard Pump Station resulted in the unintended release of untreated wastewater into the Chicopee River. The Commission was notified by its contracted wastewater operator, Suez Environmental Services, Inc., of the unintended release of a preliminary estimate of 500,000 – 750,000 gallons of untreated wastewater into the Chicopee River. Suez operates and maintains the wastewater pump stations and Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility on behalf of the Commission. The release, which took place at an outfall structure at the Indian Orchard Pump Station located on Grochmal Street in Springfield at 6:40 PM on Tuesday, was resolved by 11:00 PM that same day. The Commission and Suez are investigating the cause of the failure and gathering details of the release.

The Commission is also notifying residents of an unintended release of untreated wastewater into the Connecticut River on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 as a result of the large water main break on East Columbus Avenue and Mill Street in Springfield's South End neighborhood. The Commission was notified by Suez of a significant surcharge at the York Street Pump Station, caused by the 36-inch water main break in that area, which resulted in a significant overflow, and the unintended release of a preliminary estimate of 2.1 million gallons of untreated wastewater into the Connecticut River. Water



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from the main break entered into the nearby sewer system combining with sewage prior to being discharged into the Connecticut River at an outfall structure at the end of York Street. The release occurred at 5:20 AM and was fully resolved by 10:00 AM.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection were notified of both releases.

END