



City of Newport
Department of Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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NOTICE

April 21, 2009: Sewer Force Main Failure Update

On April 7, 2009 a failure was identified in the 36 inch concrete sewer force main that exits the Long Wharf Sewage Pumping Station. The pipe in question is more than 30 years old. The Long Wharf Pumping station receives and pumps wastewater from the southern part of the City and Middletown's Wave Avenue pump station flow to the Water Pollution Control Facility on Connell Hwy. United Water has contracted with CB Utility Co. Inc. to make the necessary repair. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management was notified of the sanitary sewer overflow and all actions being taken. The Rhode Island Department of Transportation has also been notified of the planned work associated with the repair.

Repair work began Wednesday morning April 8th with the installation of above ground by pass piping. Work to implement the by pass began on April 10th at 3:00 am. The work was stopped due to unknown and unanticipated conditions of significant tidal flow entering the force main and preventing draining of the line in order to proceed with the repair. The condition of the entire force main is in question. The installation bypass piping of the entire force main began April 13th with crews working around the clock. As of April 20th, the three 18" bypass pipes have been installed from the Long Wharf pumping station directly to the Water Pollution Control Facility. The bypass route followed the railroad ROW to the treatment facility. Portable pumps at the Long Wharf Pumping Station will be used for the bypass when it is implemented. The by pass piping is presently in the final stages of testing for leaks prior to going online by Wednesday.

Well points will be installed in Long Wharf on Wednesday and Thursday to draw down the groundwater level in preparation for excavation on Friday. The excavation will begin at the location of initial failure in front of the Long Wharf pump station. The force main in Long Wharf will be TV inspected from the pump station to the intersection of America's Cup Avenue. This work will identify the extent of repair required.

The force main will also be inspected to assess its structural integrity in other locations where access manholes are available, such as in Farewell Street. Crews are working twelve hour days in order to address the emergency repair.

Progress on this important repair to the City's wastewater infrastructure will be provided in subsequent press releases.