

Clean Water 2020 Program

CONSENT DECREE ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

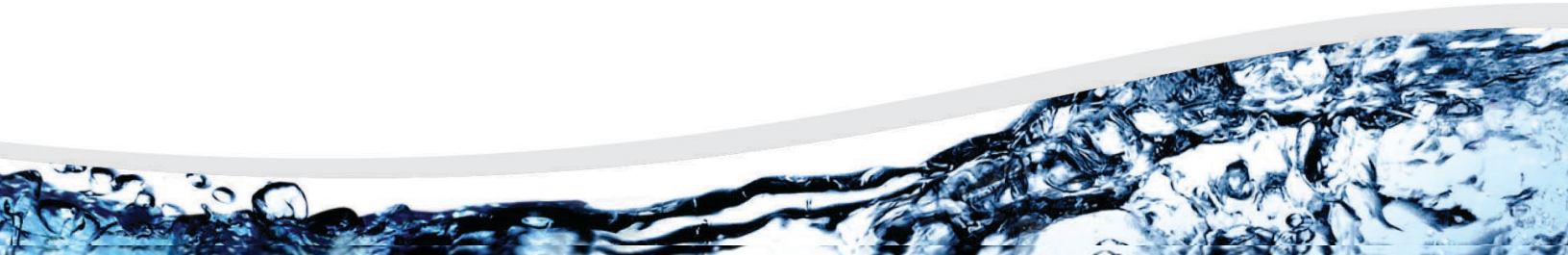


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Acronyms & Abbreviations

ARV – Air Release Valve

CAP – Capacity Assurance Program

CD – Consent Decree

CERP – Contingency Emergency Response Plan

CIP – Capital Improvements Program

City – City of Columbia

CMOM – Capacity, Management, Operations and Maintenance

CMMS – Computerized Maintenance Management System

CSAP – Continuing Sewer Assessment Program

CW2020 – Clean Water 2020, the City’s Program to Manage the Consent Decree Compliance

CY – Calendar Year

DOJ – United States Department of Justice

EPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency

FAP – Financial Analysis Program

FE – Finance Enterprise

FOG – Fats, Oils, and Grease

FSE – Food Service Establishment

FY – Fiscal Year

GIS – Geographic Information System

GSOMP – Gravity Sewer System Operation and Maintenance Program

H₂S – Hydrogen Sulfide

IFAS – Integrated Financial and Administrative Solution

IMS – Information Management System

IR – Infrastructure Rehabilitation [Program]

IRR – Infrastructure Rehabilitation Report

KPI – Key Performance Indicator

O&M – Operations & Maintenance

NTP – Notice to Proceed

SCADA – Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition

SCDES – South Carolina Department of Environmental Services

SIRR – Supplemental Infrastructure Rehabilitation Report

SORP – Sewer Overflow Response Program

SSES – Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey

SSO – Sanitary Sewer Overflow

TSOMP – Transmission System Operations and Maintenance Program

WCTS – Wastewater Collection and Transmission System

WWTP – Wastewater Treatment Plant

Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Summary of Reporting Requirements

On May 21, 2014 the City of Columbia (City) entered into a Consent Decree (CD) with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) and the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES). To fulfill the reporting requirements as defined in Section IX.39.c of the CD, the City has prepared this *Annual Report*, which includes the following information (as excerpted from the CD):

1. A summary of the CMOM [Capacity, Management, Operations and Maintenance] Programs implemented pursuant to this Consent Decree, including a comparison of actual performance with any performance measures that have been established;
2. A summary of each remedial measure and capital project implemented pursuant to this Consent Decree;
3. A trends analysis of the number, volume, duration, and cause of Columbia's SSOs [sanitary sewer overflows] for the previous twenty-four (24) month period.

1.2 Report Organization

This Annual Report is organized as follows:

Section 1 – Introduction

This section includes a summary of the reporting requirements and describes the report organization.

Section 2 – CMOM Programs Update

This section addresses the requirements of Section IX.39.c.(i) of the CD. The section provides a summary and update on the implementation of the specific Management, Operations, and Maintenance (MOM) Programs included in Section V.12 of the CD.

Section 3 – Capital Projects Update

This section addresses the requirements of Section IX.39.c.(ii) of the CD. The section provides a summary and update on the remedial measures and capital projects implemented as a part of the CD. The remedial measures and capital projects noted in this report have been identified by the City in the course of the assessment of the Wastewater Collection and Transmission System (WCTS) and may be included in the Infrastructure Rehabilitation Report (IRR) required under Section V.16 of the CD.

Section 4 – Sanitary Sewer Overflow Trends Analysis

This section addresses the requirements of Section IX.39.c.(iii) of the CD. The section provides information on the number, volume, duration, and cause of the City's SSOs for the previous twenty-four-month period.

Section 2 CMOM Programs Update

In accordance with Section IX.39.c.(i) of the CD, this section provides a summary and update on the implementation of the specific CMOM Programs included in Section V.12 of the CD. The Program elements addressed in this section provide information regarding activities involving the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) as well as the City's WCTS.

2.1 Sewer Overflow Response Program

The City continues to implement the Sewer Overflow Response Program (SORP) as required under Section V.12.a of the CD.

Projects and significant activities completed during the current reporting period:

- Trained new hires and existing personnel on the use of the SORP (completed December 2025).
- Ongoing training throughout the year as necessary for new hired employees.

2.2 Contingency and Emergency Response Plan

In consultation with SCDES, the City developed and submitted to EPA and SCDES a Contingency Emergency Response Plan (CERP) within 18 months of the Date of Entry of the CD. The City received final approval of the CERP from EPA and SCDES on May 23, 2016. As of March 6, 2017, all implementation items associated with the CERP were completed.

Projects and significant activities completed during the current reporting period:

- Continue to implement and train on CERP procedures prior to and during major weather events.
- Updates made to the CERP and a Tabletop exercise was conducted with Columbia Water staff on June 16, 2025.

2.3 WCTS Training Program

In accordance with the requirements of the CD, the City submitted a WCTS Training Program to EPA and SCDES by January 5, 2016. The City received final approval of the WCTS Training Program from EPA and SCDES on May 23, 2016. As of November 20, 2017, all implementation items associated with the WCTS Training Program were completed.

Projects and significant activities completed during the current reporting period:

- Continued implementation and tracking of the Apprenticeship Program in 2025. Employees are advised quarterly of their status in meeting program certification requirements. Program continues to be successful in training new and existing employees on the operation and maintenance of the WCTS.

2.4 Information Management System Program

In accordance with the requirements of the CD, the City submitted an Information Management System (IMS) Program to EPA and SCDES by January 5, 2016. The City received final approval of the IMS Program from EPA and SCDES on May 23, 2016. As of June 9, 2023, all implementation items under the IMS Program have been completed.

Projects and significant activities completed during the current reporting period:

- The City continues to use Cityworks as their Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) for service request and work order management for corrective and preventive maintenance activities.
- The City continues to use a series of Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, as well as Finance Enterprise (FE), to track its Capital Improvements Program (CIP) throughout the lifecycle of the project.
- The City continues to use the Storeroom module as part of the Cityworks software. As of September 30, 2018, 100% implementation of the Storeroom component was achieved.
- The City continues to obtain metrics and reports directly from their CMMS regarding the frequency of work performed on the WCTS.
 - In addition, the City continues to use a prototype business intelligence system utilizing dashboard technology that integrates Cityworks, SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition), financial information and geographic information system (GIS) data into a reporting dashboard.

2.5 Capacity Assurance Program

In accordance with the requirements of the CD, the City was to submit to EPA and SCDES a Capacity Assurance Program (CAP) within 180 days after approval of the Hydraulic Model Report. Following final approval of the Hydraulic Model Report by EPA and SCDES on April 4, 2024, the City submitted the CAP to EPA and SCDES on September 30, 2024. Additionally, within 90 days after the Date of Entry of the CD, the City was required to establish a list of all authorized new sewer service connections or increases in flow from existing service connections, which flows have not yet been introduced into the WCTS. The City is required to update and maintain this list as necessary until full implementation of the CAP, as approved by EPA. In addition, upon execution of the CD and until EPA approves the CAP as required by Section 12.e, the City agreed to continue to implement its current capacity program.

Projects and significant activities completed during the current reporting period:

- Continued to collect and process CAP requests received from developments within the City's Service Area in accordance with the current capacity program.
- Continued to use the CAP IMS in addition to the desktop analyses for CAP reviews.
- Updated the draft of the detailed CAP Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that explains the step-by-step tasks required to complete a capacity analysis.

- Continued writing supplemental SOPs that explain in detail the recurring tasks of the CAP Manager.
- New features were added to the CAP IMS including but not limited to the “In-Lieu” process, Satellite Sewer System Flow Tracking, and tracking CAP modifications after approval. The CAP manager reviewed the new features and provided comments to the CAP IMS developer.

2.6 Fats, Oils, and Grease Management Program

The City continues to implement its Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Management Program. The FOG Management Program was submitted to the EPA on July 2, 2013, and incorporated into the CD as Appendix G.

Projects and significant activities completed during the current reporting period:

- FOG Program conducts quarterly sampling at select FSEs and major points in the collection system to help gauge the overall impact of the FOG program.
- Public education program and website information are available to the public to promote FOG awareness throughout the City of Columbia.
- The City continues to implement the existing FOG Program to include quarterly inspections of Food Service Establishments (FSEs) and Public Outreach Programs.
- The City continues to implement a hospitality tax rebate program for all Commercial food establishments.

2.7 Transmission System Operations and Maintenance Program

In accordance with the requirements of the CD, the City submitted to EPA and SCDES a Transmission System Operations and Maintenance Program (TSOMP) within one year after the Date of Entry of the CD. The City received final approval of the TSOMP from EPA and SCDES on September 2, 2016.

Projects and significant activities completed during the current reporting period:

- Force Main and Easement Maintenance including clearing continues to be completed on an annual basis. This work also includes the inspection of these easements for any potential problems.
- Sulfide and Corrosion Control program for 2025 was completed by Columbia Water staff in conjunction with Clean Water 2020 staff. The work involved sampling the WCTS and identifying areas that indicate high levels of H₂S that may cause health and safety issues and potential corrosion to the City’s WCTS infrastructure. Continuous H₂S monitors were deployed throughout the system at locations identified through a desktop assessment, such as lift stations and discharge manholes.

- Air Release Valves (ARVs) continue to be inspected on a semiannual basis to ensure they are operational.

The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are tracked by the City to measure the performance of the WCTS include the number of Force Main related SSOs per mile of Force Main and/or number of SSOs per number of Pump Stations; and maintenance activities tracked by type (corrective, preventive, and emergency).

Table 1: CY 2025 Lift Station Work Order Summary

WCTS Maintenance	Percentage of Work Orders
Corrective Maintenance	8.4%
Preventive Maintenance	91.6%
Emergency Maintenance	0.1%
Total	100%

SSO KPIs related to Force Main and/or SSOs per number of Pump Stations are provided under Section 4 Sanitary Sewer Overflow Trends Analysis.

2.8 Gravity Sewer System Operation and Maintenance Program

In accordance with the requirements of the CD, the City submitted to EPA and SCDES a Gravity Sewer System Operation and Maintenance Program (GSOMP) within 18 months of the Date of Entry of the CD. The City received approval of the GSOMP from EPA and SCDES on May 23, 2016. The City subsequently submitted a revision of the GSOMP for review and received approval of the revised GSOMP from EPA and SCDES on May 24, 2024.

Projects and significant activities completed during the current reporting period:

- Gravity Sewer Easement survey and marking and clearing continues to be completed on annual basis. This work also includes the inspection of these easements for any potential problems.
- Continuing Sewer Assessment Program (CSAP) Preventive Maintenance Program contract continues to perform ongoing preventive maintenance as needed to inspect, clean, and document the condition of the sanitary sewer piping, manholes and service laterals for the City. This program is currently supplementing in-house personnel in the preventive maintenance of the WCTS.
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are updated and reviewed annually by staff.

- Organizational structure for the Wastewater Maintenance Division is updated monthly and reviewed by management for accuracy.
- Predictive analysis on locations with a high likelihood for future Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) was completed in 2024. These locations continue to be targeted for additional cleaning by in-house crews and contractors.

The KPIs that are tracked by the City to measure the performance of the WCTS include the linear footage of Gravity Sewer inspected, the linear footage of Gravity Sewer cleaned, the number of manholes inspected, the number of manholes cleaned/maintained, the number of inverted siphons inspected, the number of inverted siphons cleaned/maintained, the number of SSOs per mile of Gravity Sewer, and maintenance activity tracked by type (corrective, preventive, and emergency).

Table 2: CY 2025 WCTS Work Order Summary

WCTS Maintenance	Percentage of Work Orders
Corrective Maintenance	21%
Preventive Maintenance	74.7%
Emergency Maintenance	4.3%
Total	100%

Table 3: CY 2025 WCTS Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Reportable Consent Decree KPIs for WCTS	Annual Projection	As of 12/31/24	% Completed vs. Projected
Linear footage of gravity sewer inspections (linear feet)	564,960	491,070	86.9%
Linear footage of gravity sewers cleaned (linear feet)	1,129,920	1,028,850	91.1%
Number of manholes inspected (each)	2,799	2,848	101.8%
Number of manholes cleaned/maintained (each)	2,799	2,489	88.90%
Number of inverted siphons inspected (each)	2	2	100.0%
Number of inverted siphons cleaned/maintained (each)	2	2	100.0%

SSO KPIs related to WCTS are provided under Section 4 Sanitary Sewer Overflow Trends Analysis.

2.9 Financial Analysis Program

In accordance with the requirements of the CD, the City submitted a Financial Analysis Program (FAP) to EPA and SCDES by January 5, 2016. The City received final approval of the FAP from EPA and SCDES on May 23, 2016.

Projects and significant activities completed during the current reporting period:

- Continued assessing staffing impacts connected to CD programs and included needs and levels in both FY25/26 and FY26/27 budget plans.
- Continued planning for costs of equipment and materials needed for the proper management, operation and maintenance of the WCTS and WWTP (based on an evaluation of past needs, recent budgeting levels and costs, and projected needs) and for implementing CD programs.
- Continued planning for outsourcing needs based on past budgeting levels and costs, and on specific requirements for implementing CD programs.
- A previous rate study contract was in effect during the early portion of 2025 and continued with a rate study contract extension through 12/31/2026.
- Continued assessment of an updated/rolling 5-year CIP plan.
- Created business cases for projects for the FY25/26 Capital Projects Budget.
- Finance Enterprise (FE) used to track and report capital improvement costs as well as third-party contracts by Operations & Maintenance (O&M) category in the same manner as previously achieved through Integrated Financial and Administrative Solution (IFAS).
- Completed consolidated report, tracking O&M (by category) plus Capital costs for FY23/24.
- Began consolidated report, tracking O&M (by category) plus Capital costs for FY24/25.

Section 3 Capital Projects Update

In accordance with Section IX.39.c.(ii) of the CD, the following section provides a summary and update on the remedial measures and capital projects implemented as a part of the CD.

3.1 Infrastructure Rehabilitation Report Projects

In accordance with Section V.16 of the CD, the City was to submit an IRR summarizing the results of the CSAP of the major components of the WCTS and a description of proposed rehabilitation projects. The IRR was submitted to EPA and SCDES on November 22, 2019. The City received final approval of the IRR from EPA and SCDES on March 18, 2025.

The following projects identified in the IRR are currently in progress.

Table 4: IRR Projects (V.16)

CIP #	Project Name	Project Status/Summary
SS7331	Upper Kinley Creek Sewer Improvements Phase 1	Construction NTP issued on July 10, 2023. Construction was completed in November 2025.
SS735003	Crane Creek Lower North Branch Capacity Upgrade Phase 1	Construction NTP issued on November 6, 2023. Construction was completed in September 2025.
SS7450	Crane Creek Lower North Branch Capacity Upgrade Phase 2	Construction NTP issued on March 27, 2023. Construction was completed in March 2025.
SS7565	Lower Kinley Creek Sewer Improvements	Construction NTP issued on October 21, 2024. Construction ongoing throughout 2025.
SS7568	Saluda River Force Main Extension Phase 1	Construction NTP issued on September 5, 2023. Construction was completed in August 2025.

In accordance with Section V.16.c of the CD, the City shall submit a Supplemental Infrastructure Rehabilitation Report (SIRR) to EPA and SCDES which shall update all portions of the IRR to reflect additional information developed by the City through completion of the CSAP of the minor components of the WCTS.

The SIRR was submitted to EPA and SCDES on November 22, 2022. The City received final approval of the SIRR from EPA and SCDES on March 18, 2025.

The following projects identified in the SIRR are currently in progress. The list omits one project, SS7615 Broad River Pump Station Miscellaneous Improvements, which was previously included in past Annual Reports but is not required by the approved SIRR.

Table 5: SIRR Projects (V.16.c)

CIP #	Project Name	Project Status/Summary
SS6786	Annual Gravity Sewer Manhole Lining and Replacement	FY2024 construction began in December 2023. Construction was completed in October 2025. FY2025 construction began in December 2024. Construction was completed in October 2025. FY2026 construction began in November 2025. Construction ongoing throughout the remainder of 2025.
SS6911	Sanitary Sewer Root Control	FY2025 construction began in July 2024. Construction was completed in June 2025. FY2026 construction began in July 2025. Construction ongoing throughout the remainder of 2025.
SS6966	Annual Rehab on Lines less than 15"	FY2025 construction began in July 2024. Construction was completed in June 2025. FY2026 construction began in July 2025. Construction ongoing throughout the remainder of 2025.
SS7435	Wexford and Windsong Lift Stations Evaluation and Rehabilitation Project	Construction NTP issued on November 20, 2023. Construction was completed in June 2025.
SS7437	Miscellaneous Lift Station Improvements and Backup Power Addition Project	Construction NTP issued on September 11, 2023. Construction ongoing throughout 2025.
SS7463	Sewer System Evaluation Study and Sewer Rehabilitation Implementation CC01	Construction NTP issued on September 2, 2025. Construction ongoing throughout 2025.
SS7464	Sewer System Evaluation Study and Sewer Rehabilitation Implementation CC02 and CC04	Construction NTP issued on September 25, 2023. Construction was completed in December 2025.
SS7467	North Columbia Pump Station Upgrade	Construction NTP issued on March 28, 2023. Construction was completed March 2025.
SS7564	West Columbia PS 2020 Upgrades	Construction NTP issued on January 9, 2023. Construction was completed in January 2025.
SS7583	SR02 and BR04 Engineer Led Find and Fix Rehabilitation	Construction NTP issued on May 2, 2022. Construction was completed in September 2025.
SS7604	Continuing Sewer Assessment Program Preventative Maintenance	FY2025 construction began in February 2025. Construction was completed November 2025. FY2026 construction began in July 2025. Construction ongoing throughout the remainder of 2025.

3.2 Additional Projects

At the request of EPA, the City is providing progress updates on the following four Additional Projects:

- SS733701 East Rocky Branch Improvements Phase 1
- SS7589 Broad River Force Main Replacement and Gravity Sewer Capacity Improvements
- SS7562 Gills Creek Relief Sewer Phase 1
- SS7568 Saluda River Force Main Extension (Phases 1 & 2)

The following projects are currently in progress.

Table 6: Additional Projects

CIP #	Project Name	Project Status/Summary
SS7568	Saluda River Force Main Extension Phase 1	Construction NTP issued on September 5, 2023. Construction was completed in March 2025.

Section 4 Sanitary Sewer Overflow Trends Analysis

In accordance with Section IX.39.c.(iii) of the CD, the following section provides a trends analysis of the number, volume, duration, and cause of the City’s SSOs for the previous twenty-four-month period.

Items required include the detailed number (frequency) and volume, by cause, of reportable spills as well as a trend analysis of the number, volume, and cause of the City’s SSOs, by month, for the previous twenty-four-month period.

4.1 SSO Frequency and Volume by Cause

The detailed number and volume, by cause, for reportable spills is presented for review. The following table represents the SSO volume spilled by cause, frequency and volume for calendar years 2024 and 2025.

Table 7: Total SSO Frequency and Volume by Cause, CY 2024 & 2025

SSO Cause	Frequency	Volume (gal)
Collapsed Line	65	91,775
Grease	31	56,933
3 rd Party	15	130,220
Pump Station Failure	5	350,964
Roots	54	82,621
Debris	63	161,796
Wet Weather	29	285,738
Force Main	1	45
Equipment Failure	14	376,907
Wastewater Treatment Plant	4	237,981

The following table shows the SSO category (cause), number of SSOs of that category by month, and the total for each month in CY 2024 and CY 2025. The total number of SSOs by category is then calculated as a percentage of all SSOs for the overall time period.

Table 8: Monthly SSO Frequency by Cause, CY 2024 & 2025

Month / Year	Collapsed Line	Grease	3rd Party	Pump Station Failure	Roots	Debris	Wet Weather	Force Main	Equip. Failure	Wastewater Treatment Plant	Total
Jan-24	3	2	0	0	7	3	0	0	0	0	15
Feb-24	8	3	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	17
Mar-24	2	2	1	1	4	4	6	0	0	0	20
Apr-24	1	1	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	8
May-24	1	0	2	0	1	5	0	0	1	0	10
Jun-24	5	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	10
Jul-24	2	0	0	0	1	3	3	0	1	0	10
Aug-24	6	1	0	0	1	2	6	0	6	2	24
Sep-24	3	2	2	1	2	2	11	0	0	0	23
Oct-24	1	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	1	0	7
Nov-24	2	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	10
Dec-24	1	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	8
CY 2024 Total	35	16	9	3	29	30	26	0	12	2	162
Jan-25	2	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	7
Feb-25	4	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	11
Mar-25	3	4	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	14
Apr-25	1	1	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	8
May-25	0	0	0	2	1	3	1	1	0	0	8
Jun-25	2	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	9
Jul-25	3	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	9
Aug-25	3	0	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	1	10
Sep-25	7	3	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	15
Oct-25	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	5
Nov-25	1	2	3	0	6	2	0	0	1	0	15
Dec-25	4	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	8
CY 2025 Total	30	15	6	2	25	33	3	1	2	2	119
Grand Total	65	31	15	5	54	63	29	1	14	4	281
% of Total	23.1%	11.0%	5.3%	1.8%	19.2%	22.4%	10.3%	0.4%	5.0%	1.4%	

In CY 2024, the highest number of reportable spills was due to collapsed lines (22%). The next highest areas of reportable spills were attributable to debris (19%) and roots (18%). In CY 2025, the highest number of reportable spills were due to debris (28%), collapsed lines (25%) and roots (21%). Overall, collapsed lines, roots, and debris combined to represent a significant majority (65%) of the reportable spills for the period.

Figure 1: CY 2024 SSOs by Cause

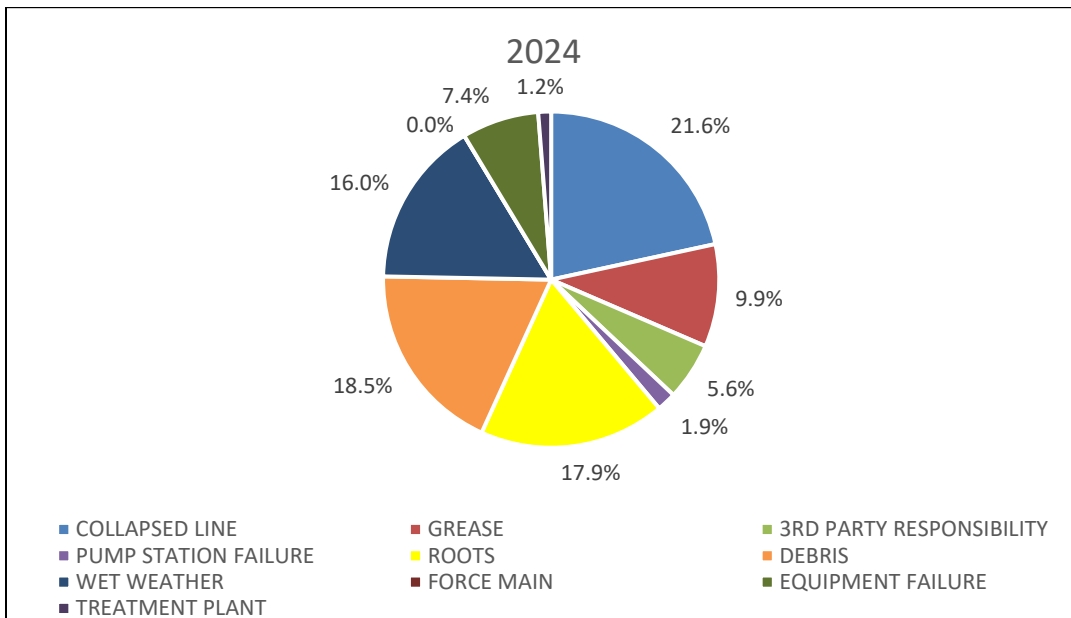
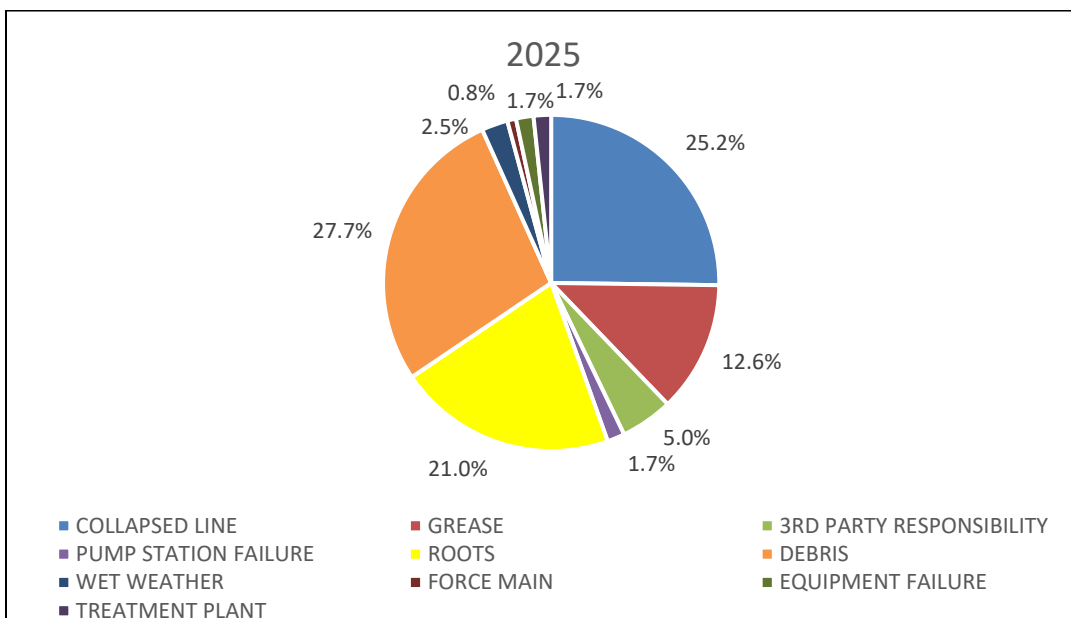


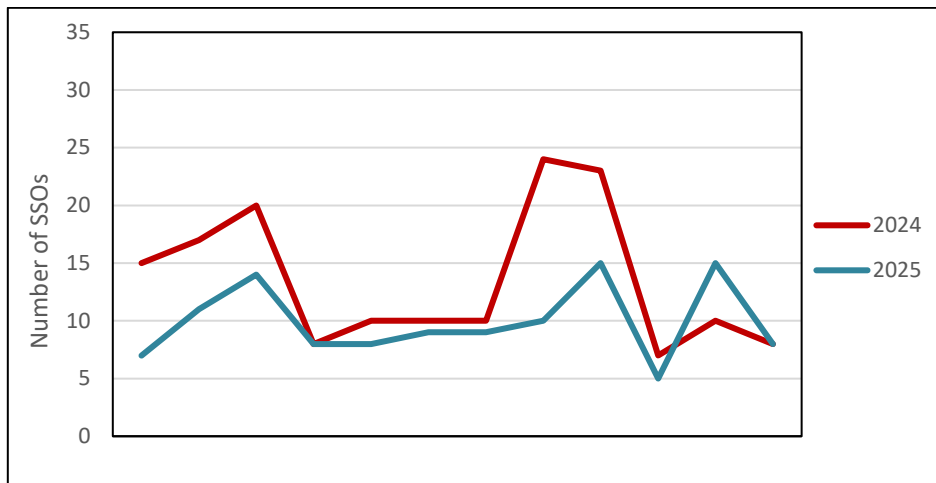
Figure 2: CY 2025 SSOs by Cause



4.2 SSO Frequency and Volume by Month

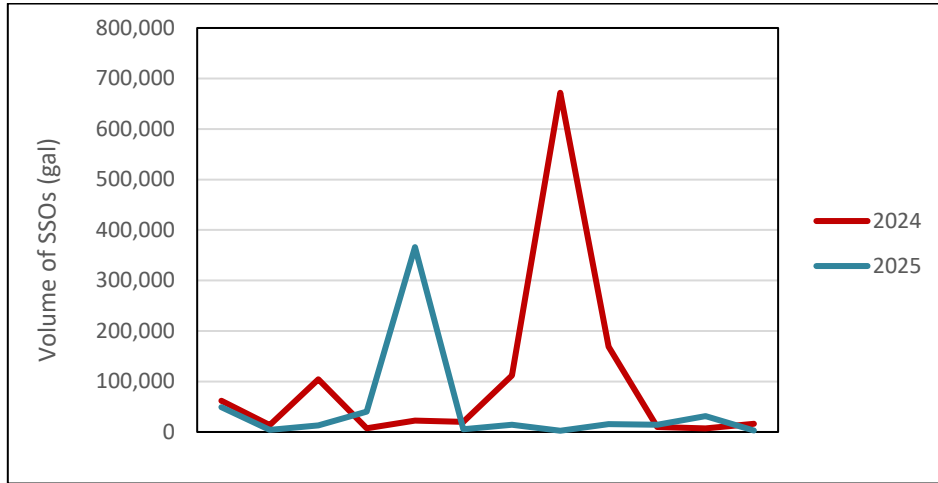
As shown in the tables above, the City experienced a total of 162 SSOs in CY 2024. In CY 2025, the City experienced a total of 119 SSOs for a combined total of 281 SSOs. This number was less than the previous two-year total of 313, a decrease of 10%. The average number of SSOs per month during CY 2024 was 13.5, and 9.9 in CY 2025. The fluctuation in SSOs monthly is caused by a combination of wet weather, roots, and collapsed lines. During CY 2024, August and September averaged 23.5 SSOs per month, well above the annual average of 13.5. In CY 2025, September and December averaged 15.0 SSOs per month, once again well above the annual average of 9.9.

Figure 3: SSO Frequency by Month



During CY 2024, total known volume spilled represented approximately 1.22 million gallons; in CY 2025, total known volume spilled represented approximately 0.56 million gallons, for an estimated combined total known volume of 1.78 million gallons. Wet weather events accounted for 22.3 percent of the known volume spilled in CY 2024 and 2.6 percent of the known volume spilled in CY 2025. The decrease in the percentage of wet-weather volume is primarily due to the decrease in the number of wet-weather SSOs from 26 in 2024 to three in 2025.

Figure 4: SSO Volume by Month



4.3 SSO Duration

The documented duration of an SSO is the amount of time between the estimated start time of the SSO event (observed) and the estimated end time of the SSO event (observed). In CY 2024, non-wet weather SSOs represented an average duration of 92 minutes per SSO. Wet weather SSOs represented an average duration of 47 minutes per SSO. In CY 2025, non-wet weather SSOs represented an average duration of 45 minutes. Wet weather SSOs represented an average duration of 245 minutes; the increase in documented wet weather SSO duration from 2024 is largely attributable to the one wet-weather SSO in 2025 which occurred during a greater than 2-year storm event.

Of all SSOs in CY 2024 and 2025, 46 percent of the non-wet weather SSO durations and 72 percent of the wet weather SSO durations were reported as unknown or undetermined due to overflow being unobserved.

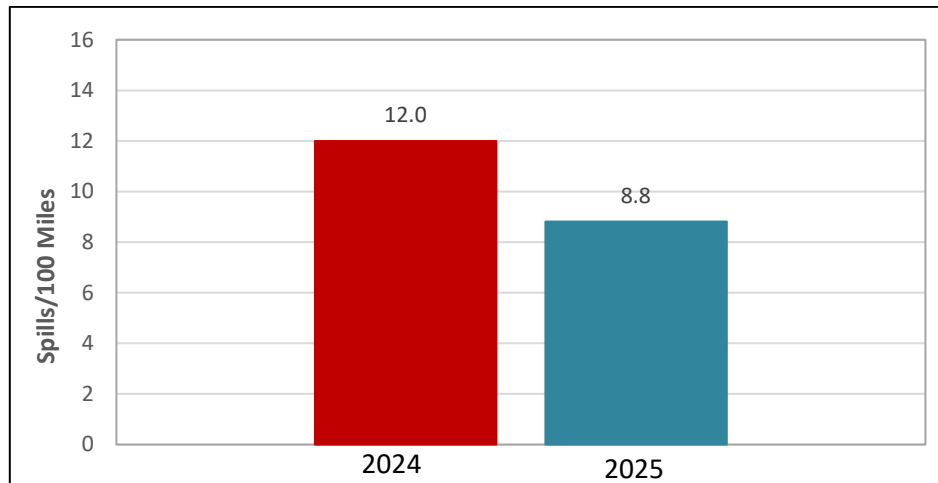
4.4 SSOs per 100 Miles of Pipe

Previous EPA Annual Reports utilized only the mainline pipe length for SSOs per 100 miles metric. Starting with the 2020 Annual Report, the SSOs per 100 miles metric also included an estimated length of City-maintained public laterals. Since lateral and cleanout SSOs have been included in previous years' reporting, including the estimated lateral footage into the overall pipe length improved accuracy in properly estimating the number of SSOs per 100 miles of maintained pipe.

In 2024, City-maintained public laterals increased to 63,000. With an assumed length of 20 feet per lateral, the approximate total length of City-maintained public laterals is 240 miles. The inclusion of 240 miles of public laterals with the current 1,110 miles of mainline pipe yields a total gravity system length of approximately 1,350 miles.

Based on the calculation methodology described above, in CY 2024 the number of SSOs per 100 miles equaled 12.0 and in CY 2025 8.8. This is a decrease of 3.2 SSOs per 100 miles of pipe.

Figure 5: SSOs per 100 Miles of Pipe



4.5 Building Backup Frequency, Volume, and Causes

As noted in Section IV.8.a of the CD, a Building Backup is defined as a release of wastewater into a building or onto private property that is caused by blockages, flow conditions, or other malfunctions in the WCTS.

Separate from the SSO data noted above in Sections 4.1 through 4.4, the following tables represent the frequency, volume, and causes of building backups within the City’s system during CY 2024 and CY 2025. Building backup claims are investigated by the City in order to determine whether the cause of the building backup is a condition within the City’s system. If so, the City corrects the problem in the City’s WCTS. Issues on private property are documented for the City by a third-party administrator.

The following table represents building backups by cause, frequency, and volume for CY 2024 and 2025.

Table 9: Total Building Backup Frequency and Volume by Cause, CY 2024 & 2025

Building Backup Cause	Frequency	Volume (gal)
Collapsed Line	5	741
Grease	2	3,741
3 rd Party	5	99

Building Backup Cause	Frequency	Volume (gal)
Pump Station Failure	0	0
Roots	2	130
Debris	4	2,400
Wet Weather	1	1,007
Force Main	0	0
Equipment Failure	1	1
Wastewater Treatment Plant	0	0
TOTAL	20	8,119

The following table shows the building backup category (cause), number of backups of that category by month, and the total for each month in CY 2024 and CY 2025.

Table 10: Monthly Building Backup Frequency by Cause, CY 2024 & 2025

Month / Year	Collapsed Line	Grease	3rd Party	Roots	Debris	Wet Weather	Equipment Failure	Total
Jan-24	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Feb-24	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Mar-24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Apr-24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May-24	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Jun-24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jul-24	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Aug-24	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sep-24	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	4
Oct-24	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Nov-24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dec-24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CY 2024 Total	4	2	2	2	3	0	0	13
Jan-25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feb-25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mar-25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Apr-25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May-25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jun-25	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Jul-25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Month / Year	Collapsed Line	Grease	3rd Party	Roots	Debris	Wet Weather	Equipment Failure	Total
Aug-25	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Sep-25	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Oct-25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov-25	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Dec-25	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
CY 2025 Total	1	0	3	0	1	1	1	7
Grand Total	5	2	5	2	4	1	1	20

All building backups for CY 2024 and 2025 were reported as unknown or undetermined duration due to overflow being unobserved.