



Sewage Right-to-Know

2026 Annual Report

January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025



Lining project in North Hartford to help reduce flooding issues in the area

Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)

SSOs are releases from separate sanitary sewers which can be caused by sewer blockages, line breaks, sewer defects that allow stormwater and groundwater to overload the system, power failures, improper sewer design, and vandalism.

Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)

CSOs are discharges from combined sewer systems that were designed 100+ years ago to convey sewage and stormwater in the same pipes. When higher intensity storms overload the carrying capacity of the pipes, CSOs allow excess flows to discharge to nearby streams to prevent back-ups of raw sewage into homes, reduce the potential for street flooding, and protect pipes and treatment systems from damage.



Example of a Combines Sewer Overflow sign

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Executive Summary

Beginning on February 1, 2022 and annually thereafter, [Public Act 21-42](#) (AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE SEWAGE SPILL RIGHT-TO-KNOW STATUTE) requires DEEP to post an annual report that includes a summary of sewage spills [which include Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs), and permitted sewage bypasses¹] that occurred within each municipality, a summary of sewage spills that reached named or identified water bodies, a summary of the total volume of each category of sewage spill and any enforcement actions taken by the department related to such sewage spills.

Sewage Right to Know Background

In 2012, [Public Act 2012-11](#) entitled “An Act Concerning the Public’s Right to Know of a Sewage Spill” was passed requiring DEEP to post the locations of CSOs and SSOs in the state, including relevant information associated with reasonable public health, safety or environmental concerns and public safety precautions that should be taken.

In 2018, [Public Act 2018-97](#) entitled “An Act Concerning the Sewage Spill Right-to-Know Act and Expanding Continuing Education Programs for Wastewater Operators” added a definition for an electronic report, required operators of a sewage treatment plant or collection system to submit electronic reports no later than two hours after becoming aware of any sewage spill, added language to require all reporting under RCSA §22a-430-3 to be submitted as an electronic report, and added enforcement under CGS §22a-438. Additionally, and significantly, this Act required the operator of a sewage treatment plant or collection system to notify the chief elected official (CEO) of the municipality where a sewage spill exceeding or expecting to exceed 5,000-gallons occurred, no later than two-hours of becoming aware of the spill. Such CEO was then required to inform the public and downstream public officials, as appropriate, and as soon as practicable.

In 2021, [Public Act 2021-42](#) entitled “An Act Concerning Revisions to the Sewage Spill Right-to-Know Statute” added language to better clarify that what types of sewage spills must be reported, including permitted sewage bypasses. This Act removed the 5,000-gallon reporting threshold and replaced it with the requirement to report any sewage spill or permitted bypass reaching water or may come into contact with the general public. Also, the CEO and local public health director of the municipality where such a spill or permitted bypass occurred, as well as the CEO and local health director of any municipality that may be potentially impacted downstream, must be notified by the operator of a sewage treatment plant or collection system. Such CEO(s) and local health director(s) must then inform the public of any sewage spill or permitted bypass that has the potential to impact public health, safety or the environment. This Act also required reporters (i.e., operators of a sewage treatment plant or collection system) to provide daily updates for any spill that lasts more than one

¹ Bypasses of untreated or partially treated sewage at wastewater treatment facilities permitted under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program and caused by weather related high flow events. These bypasses exist to preserve the biology in a wastewater treatment facility and prevent damage/shutdown of a facility.

day. Finally, DEEP was required to implement a real-time public notification system for sewage spills and publish an annual report.

DEEP Actions to Comply

On December 1, 2021, DEEP's new cloud-based system and associated [CT DEEP Performance Dashboard](#), meeting the expanded reporting requirements of Public Act 21-42, went live. The new system allows reporters to report sewage spills, make corrections, and provide data updates (for example, to discharge volumes after a sewage spill has ended), thus allowing for more accurate data. The new Dashboard also allows for analytics and widgets to improve public transparency and data accessibility for SSOs and CSOs and associated data.

To meet its real-time notification requirement, DEEP has created and is using a Twitter account called "CT Sewer Overflows" ([@CTSewageSpills](#)) through which DEEP disseminates reports of sewage spills in the state. DEEP is currently manually updating the Twitter account and has partnered with Everbridge to automate a public notice system that subscribers sign up to receive. DEEP is currently working with Everbridge to ensure that reports submitted to the electronic bypass reporting system will be immediately relayed to the Everbridge account for public notification. DEEP hopes to have the system live within the next six months.

Summary of Data²

Weather Conditions

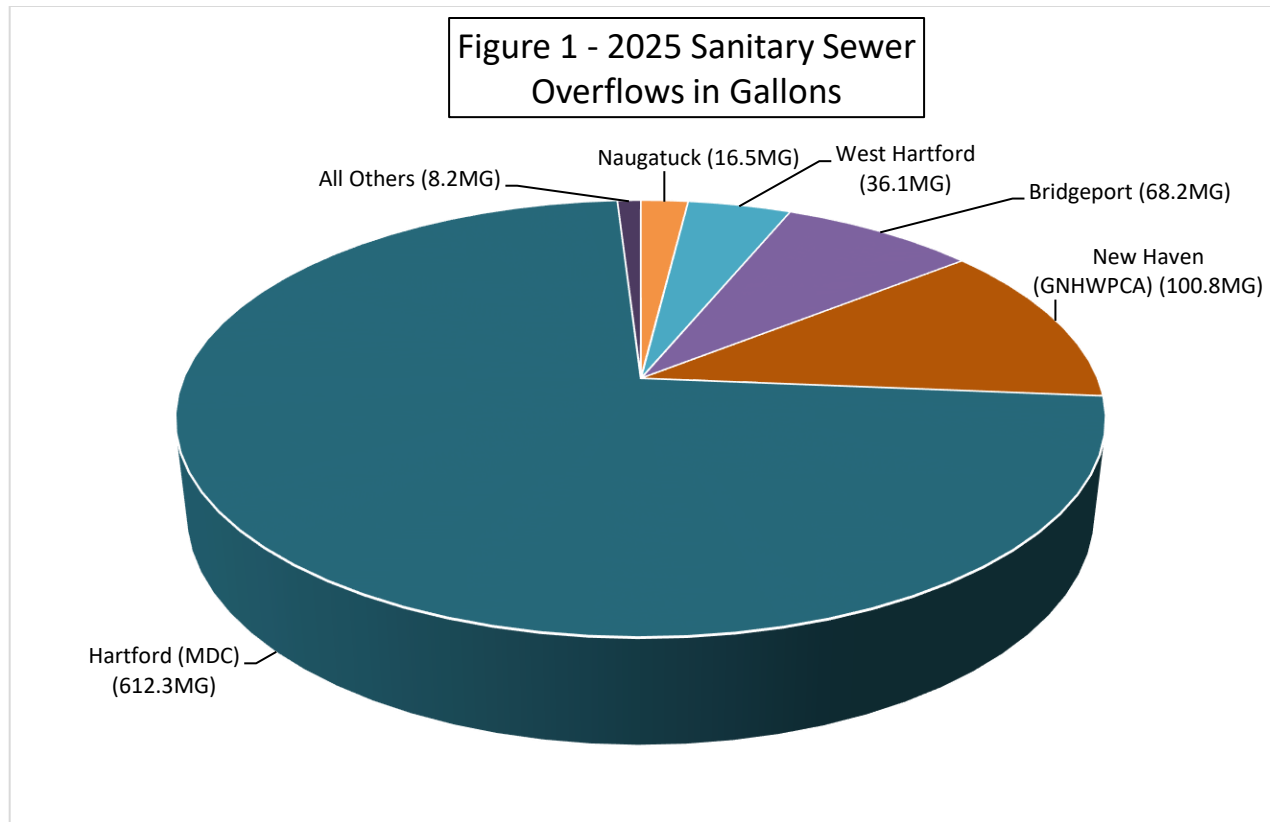
2025 continued the streak of record warm years featuring a 21-month warm streak that ended in August 2025, included a June heatwave with temperatures near 100F and then had near normal temperatures in the summer. Connecticut experienced a very light winter with a max 24-hour snowfall of only 3.5-inches recorded in Hartford (other stats show only 2.6-inches). Bridgeport experienced its driest summer on record since 1948 with only 3.85-inches of rain. Weather conditions were the most significant cause of sewage spills in 2025, as identified in Figures 3 and 4 below (see *Excessive Flows – Storm Event* category), but overall were lower in total gallons and number occurring.

Summary of Sewage Spills by Municipality²

2025 was dry and that is reflected in the reduced number of sanitary sewer overflows. Approximately 842,005,195 gallons of raw (i.e. untreated) sewage was released during 361 known sanitary sewer overflow events in 2025. These include both 249 SSOs and 112 NPDES Permitted Bypasses but excludes CSOs. The top five municipalities with releases are represented in Figure 1 – 2025 Sanitary Sewer Overflows in Gallons. There were 134 *Excessive Flows – Storm Events* reported as the cause of the sewage spills – down from the 231 reported in 2024.

See the SSO SUMMARY tab on the "[2026 Annual Report](#)" spread sheet for the breakdown. For more detailed information, see the individual town tabs in the "[2026 SSO Event Report](#)" and "[2026 CSO Event Report](#)" spread sheets.

² Data Caveats: SRTK data is submitted by NPDES Permit representatives. SRTK reports are required to be submitted within 2 hours after discovery of a sewage spill and specific details may not be known immediately. DEEP does not review data quality, especially volume calculations performed by reporters.

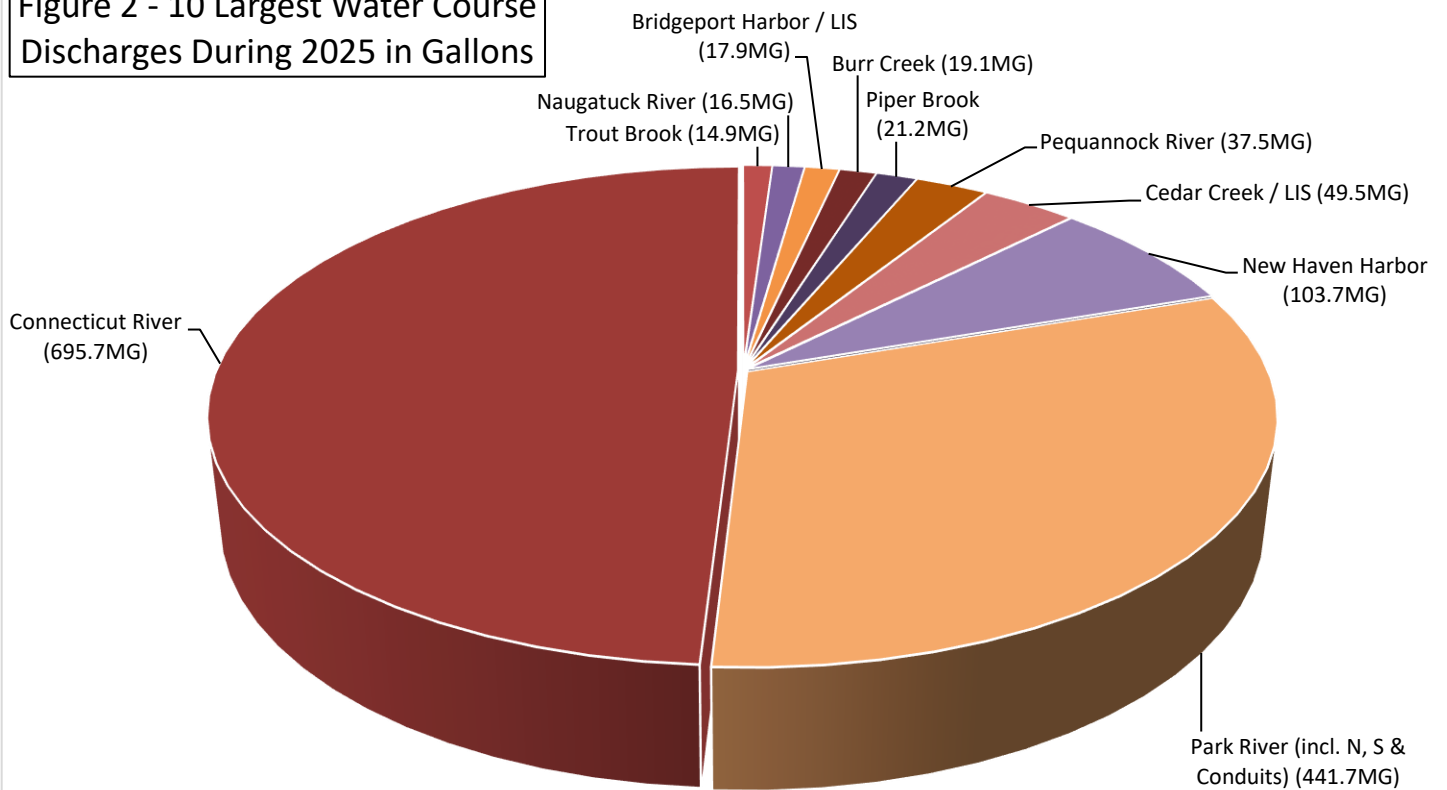


Summary of Sewage Spills That Reached Named or Identified Water Bodies.

An estimated total of 1,417,646,830 gallons of raw and partially treated sewage reached 63 named and unnamed waters of the state in 2025. This includes CSOs, SSOs, and NPDES Permitted Bypasses. Figure 2 represents the top 10 waterways which received the largest volume of sewage spills (an approximate total of gallons). This represents 98% of the total volume, leaving 29,422,565 gallons entering the other 52 named waterways and an additional 2,100 gallons reaching unnamed (identified) waterways for a total of 29,424,665 gallons.

See the CSO SUMMARY tab and SSO SUMMARY tab and REACHED WATER SUMMARY tab in the "[2026 Annual Report](#)" spread sheet for more detailed data.

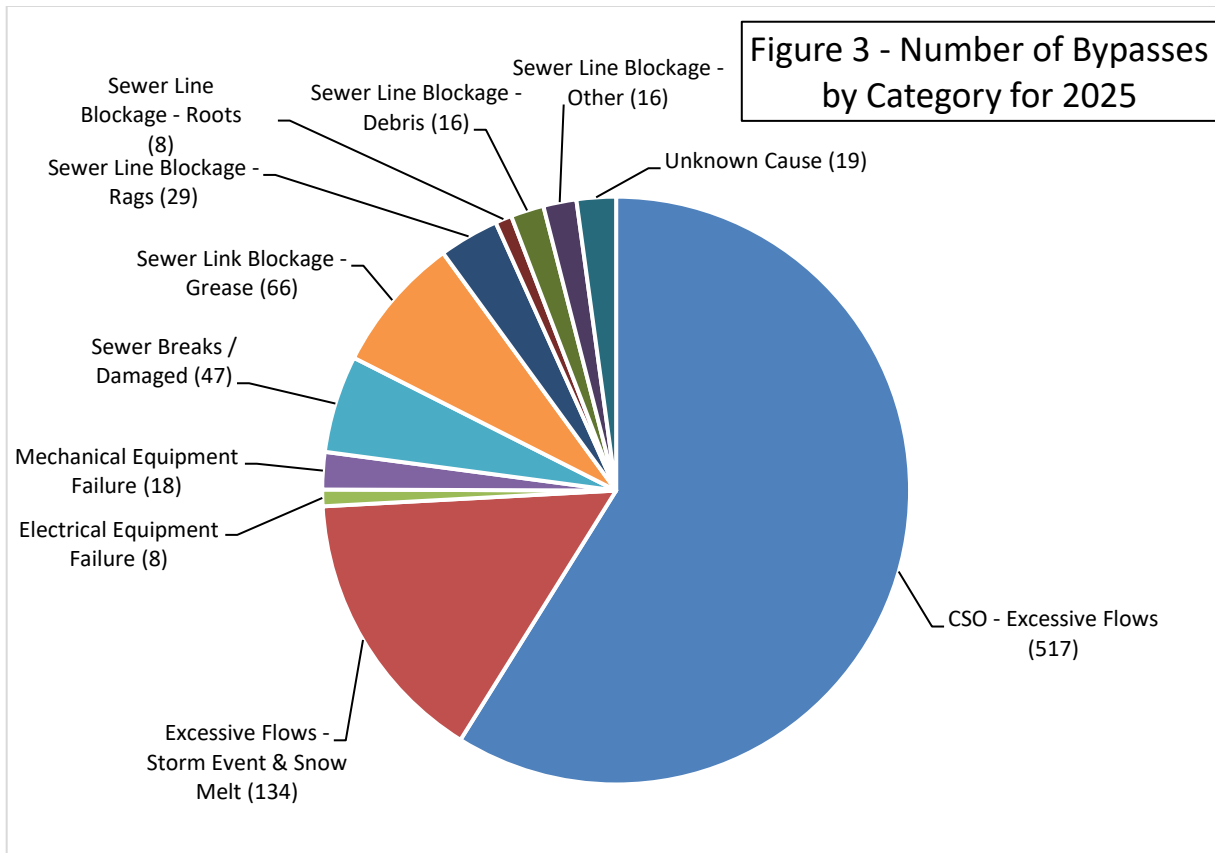
Figure 2 - 10 Largest Water Course Discharges During 2025 in Gallons



Summary of the Total Number of Events of Each Category of Sewage Spill.

Of the 249 SSOs and 112 NPDES Permitted bypasses, 188 reached waters of the State. There were 517 reported CSOs, resulting in 198 overall days (one CSO per day per town counts towards the total) during which raw sewage entered the waters of the state. All CSOs reached water. There were 134 *Excessive Flows – Storm Events* reported as the cause of the sewage spills which includes the 112 NPDES Permitted Bypasses. There were 231 *Excessive Flows – Storm Events* reported in 2024 which was also mostly a dry year. Figure 3 below breaks out each category.

See the CSO SUMMARY tab and SSO SUMMARY tab in the [“2026 Annual Report”](#) spread sheet for more information.



Summary of the Total Volume of Each Category of Sewage Spill.

Figure 4 below shows how each grouped category of sewage spill compares in gallons. CSOs represented approximately 1,608,265,317 gallons, while *Excessive Flows – Storm Events* represented approximately 829,931,908 gallons of the total approximated 842,005,195 gallons released by non CSO releases (which includes all categories, other than CSOs, identified in Figures 3 & 4). There were 134 *Excessive Flows – Storm Events & Snow Melt* which were reported as the cause of the sewage spills.

See the CSO SUMMARY tab and SSO SUMMARY tab in the [“2026 Annual Report”](#) spread sheet for more information.

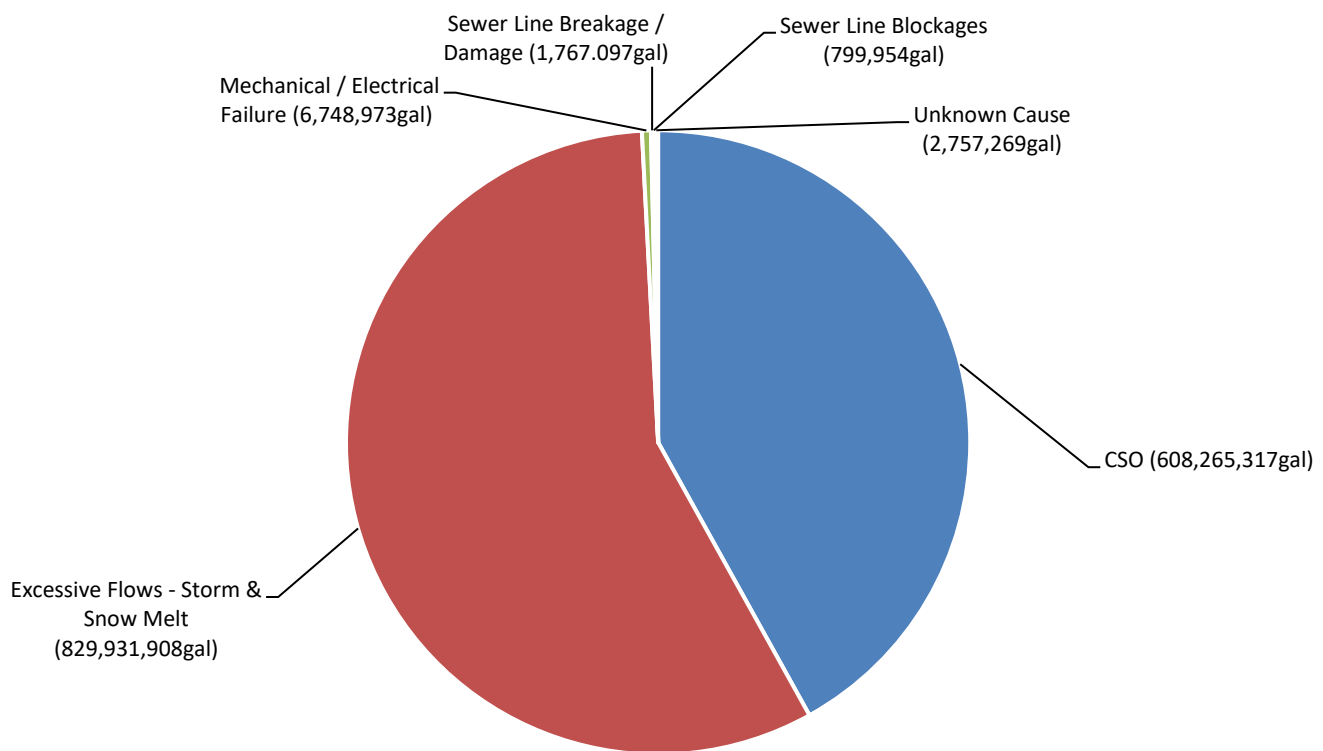


Figure 4 - Volume of Events by Category for 2025

Summary of Enforcement

DEEP's enforcement actions are guided by its [Enforcement Response Policy](#). The City of Bridgeport, the City of Norwich, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) and Greater New Haven WPCA (GNHWPCA) all continue to work towards the completion of their existing CSO Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) orders.

The City of Bridgeport last updated their LTCP in 2021. Bridgeport is moving forward with upgrades to its two wastewater treatment plants that includes larger wet weather receiving facilities to accept the increased flow from new conveyance piping in the collection system in lieu of storage tanks.

DEEP issued Consent Order COWRMU17001 to the City of Norwich (Norwich) on July 3, 2017, to update the LTCP. Norwich submitted a LTCP update in 2020 and continues to complete projects required in the LTCP, including the closure of three regulators reducing the number of active regulators from fourteen to eleven in addition to upgrades at the water pollution control facility.

The Metropolitan District submitted an Integrated Implementation Phase I in February 2021 as an update to the LTCP. On September 19, 2022, DEEP issued Consent Order COWRMU22002 for the implementation of the first seven years of the plan with an update due in five years. DEEP issued a modified order for the Consent Order on July 24, 2023, to mitigate combined sewer overflows in the north Hartford area to address flooding concerns from the residents of north Hartford and to implement the North Hartford Pilot Project (NHPP) which focused on improvements in infrastructure

located in the public right-of-way and on certain private properties. A second modification was issued January 15, 2025, to move projects around to better achieve the goals of the ongoing NHPP. The MDC completed one consent order project in 2025, which directly benefited the North Hartford area and is on track to complete the two that fell behind due to construction complications this spring. MDC is on schedule to complete four more projects in 2026 and has started designing one more which will directly benefit the North Hartford area.

Greater New Haven WPCA (GNHWPCA) and DEEP entered into a Consent Order COWRMU5509 on July 1, 2009. Two subsequent modifications of this order were made on July 7, 2015, and November 12, 2019, requiring GNHWPCA to develop and implement an LTCP every five (5) years, complete sewer separation and pump station capacity upgrades, perform inflow and infiltration investigations and SSes work, and meet specified project status updates and construction milestones. GNHWPCA submitted their 2022 LTCP to DEEP and is now currently working on the development of the 2027 LTCP, which will focus on an updated hydraulic model that represents current collection system conditions and is appropriate for supporting long-term planning and future design projects. GNH completed the Orchard Street Sewer Separation in the Fall of 2025 and is currently working on the Yale/Trumbull Street Sewer Separation project. Both are CSO Sewer Separation projects that were identified in the 2022 LTCP. The intermediate phase for the East Street Pump Station Capacity Upgrade project has recently commenced and will increase capacity at the pump station from 30 million gallons per day (MGD) to 45MGD, allowing additional wet-weather flow to be conveyed to the treatment plant and reducing CSO discharges. A future phase is planned to increase wet-weather flow capacity to 65 MGD.

DEEP issued Order WRMU22001 to the City of Norwalk on May 6, 2022, to address 1) the lack of the equivalent of primary treatment on the NPDES-permitted Secondary Treatment Bypass train at the wastewater treatment plant, as required its National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, and 2) its historic and potential future bypasses at the Ann Street Siphon Emergency Overflow. Norwalk submitted its Facility Plan and Collection System Master Plan update to DEEP in September 2023. Discussions ensued in 2024 and 2025 with DEEP, regarding Norwalk's proposed approach to advancing elimination of the outfalls in accordance with the Consent Order. DEEP issued comments and requested additional clarification on the proposed approach. Norwalk subsequently responded with a revised proposal committing to physically eliminate the outfalls, while requesting additional time to monitor system performance, and following implementation of wet weather improvements in the collection system. Norwalk has completed several wastewater treatment infrastructure improvement projects including extensive CIPP sewer lining, pump station rehabilitations, and operational enhancements including SCADA monitoring. Norwalk's latest project, currently in the design phase, focuses on improvements to the Final Settling Tanks at the treatment plant, aimed at improving treatment efficiency and overall long-term wastewater quality.

Clean Water Fund Assistance

Connecticut's Clean Water Fund (CWF) supports municipal wastewater infrastructure projects throughout the State and is a designated federal state revolving fund. The CWF partners with local governments to build and finance projects that improve water quality and protect public health while sustaining the State's significant natural resources. The CWF is one of the most

generous programs in the United States with 100% project financing, which includes grants for a percentage of the project cost and subsidized 2% interest rate loans for the balance of the project cost. Municipal plans (such as Long-Term Control Plans or Integrated Plans) to address and eliminate CSOs and SSOs are a priority funding area for the CWF and implementation of plan actions are expected to cost billions of dollars and take decades. Connecticut municipalities, such as Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, and Norwich, with combined sewer systems will be prioritized for funding.