

Town of Thomaston
ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT
Report for October 2024

PLANT OPERATIONS – This month the storage lagoon reached its lowest operating level of 5% after land applying 10.7 million gallons (MG). This is down from 19% full at the beginning of the month. The goal now is to keep the level down until the end of land application season, the end of November. That means matching the spraying to the volume of wastewater received. Rainfall was only 1.97 inches and this is well below the typical October precipitation of 4.29 inches. The volume of wastewater received for treatment was 5.2 MG.

The land applied wastewater was monitored, sampled and tested as required by our DEP license and all parameters were within limits. The eight groundwater wells that surround the spray fields were sampled (we do this spring and fall) and tested and there were no issues with the results. We received the results of the required annual mercury test on the wastewater and the result was 5.0 PPT. Our maximum limit is 16.8 PPT. There were no violations of our license this month.

The failed alarm lights at Public Landing and Atticus Hill Pump Stations, found during our annual DEP inspection, have been repaired and are working normally.

PUMP STATIONS – The pump stations all ran with no problems this month. All stations had both pumps in full operation. With low rainfall this month Dragon discharged only 1,060,000 gallons to the public sewer, more than in July but still one of the lowest months on record. We have received a report from Dirigo Engineering on a possible upgrade program to the three pump stations that move the wastewater from the east end of Thomaston to the Water Street Pump Station. Two of these stations were built before the sewer was extended to the east end and are undersized for the larger flows of today. This upgrade program will be incorporated into the department's long-term improvement plans.

SEWER LINES – The planned inspection of the Water Street Clean Water Drain (the old sewer that now handles the cellar drains, sump pumps and other clear water from the houses) has been cancelled. When the Public

Works Department was cleaning the lines they discovered enough issues to indicate that complete replacement needs to be planned as part of the future Water Street rebuild project.

MUNICIPAL UTILITIES – This month the solar array produced 52,767 kWh of electricity that went to the grid. (See graph below for comparison between design and actual production.) The production of electricity was the best in October 2024 of the three years the system has been running.

The solar panels on the roof of the Wastewater Control building and garage produced 4,033 kWh that was all used in the treatment facility.

During September the municipal electric accounts used a total of 53,013 kWh and again more power has been generated than was used this month helping to keep our CMP bills low.

We are still investigating a Community Solar Cooperative with South Thomaston. They have recently installed a small solar array and have indicated an interest in expanded into community solar to benefit their citizens. This program continues to move ahead with the next step to determine the interest in each town’s citizens to join a solar co-op.

