

Town of Thomaston  
**ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT**

Report for September 2024

*PLANT OPERATIONS* – Another good month for land application of our treated wastewater with over 14 million gallons (MG) applied. At the beginning of the month the storage lagoon was 42% full and, by the end, down to 19%. We should reach our lower limit in October and the spraying will be limited to only the volume we receive. Rainfall was 2.10 inches and this is well below the typical September precipitation of 3.83 inches. The volume of wastewater received for treatment was 4.83 MG.

The land applied wastewater was monitored, sampled and tested as required by our DEP license and all parameters were within limits. There were no violations of our license this month.

On September 9<sup>th</sup> we had our annual DEP inspection. Every five years they do a detailed inspection of the collection system and the pump stations and this was the fifth year. It all went well with no major issues found. An alarm at one of our small pump stations did not work correctly but after running both pumps at each station, running all the generators, and testing all alarms this was our only problem.

*PUMP STATIONS* – The pump stations all ran with no problems this month. All stations had both pumps in full operation. The spare pump from the Buttermilk Lane Pump Station that has been in the repair shop since last November was returned. It has new bearings, seals, rotor unit, impeller, and other parts. It was test run and pressure tested and is now in the building at Buttermilk Lane. With low rainfall this month Dragon discharged only 870,000 gallons to the public sewer, more than in July but still one of the lowest months on record.

*SEWER LINES* – The Public Works Department worked at cleaning the Water Street Clean Water Drain (the old sewer that now handles the cellar drains, sump pumps and other clear water from the houses) as it is planned to have the lines inspected by camera this fall. This will allow us to plan any upgrades needed before Water Street gets rebuilt.

**MUNICIPAL UTILITIES** – This month the solar array produced 65,023 kWh of electricity that went to the grid. (See graph below for comparison between design and actual production.)

The solar panels on the roof of the Wastewater Control building and garage produced 4,910 kWh that was all used in the treatment facility.

During September the municipal electric accounts used a total of 54,420 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. A second meeting is being planned in October to discuss the possibility of a two town program to benefit both town’s citizens.

