

Town of Thomaston
ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

Report for JULY 2023

LAGOON PLANT OPERATIONS – This was a good month for land application of the treated wastewater as we were able to land apply 15 million gallons (MG) even with rainfall of 5.46 inches. The volume received for treatment was 9 MG. The storage lagoon was 65% full at the beginning of the month and 47.65% at the end. During the latter part of the month, it became apparent the aging aeration system was malfunctioning. After getting to the exact source the system was patched and in part bypassed which allowed us to go from 53% functioning up to 71% functioning. A new system is being designed and the first phase should be installed late September or October. Some of the town got a firsthand smelling of what happens when the aeration system drops to 50%. Procedures have now been put in place to hopefully avoid a repeat of this. News articles dating back as far as 1999 were discovered talking about odors. Moving forward we will attempt to not repeat history.

LAND SPRAYING OPERATIONS – The land applied wastewater was monitored, sampled, and tested as required by our DEP permit and all parameters for spray fields 2,3,4, and 5 were within limits. Spray field one has been taken offline for the foreseeable future. Saturation of the ground is not functioning and its current design conflicts with the licensed parameters. Look for next year to have a reconfigured properly working Spray Field One.

CONTROL CENTER OPERATIONS – The laboratory is actively being updated to comply with DEP and EPA standards, including new signage. All working equipment is being calibrated where controls and displays monitor all activities. Preventive Maintenance programs are being reviewed to attend to all facets of the Environmental Department, and a central filing system is being implemented.

PUMP STATIONS – We are in the process of cleaning and improving the appearance of our pump stations to make them blend into their environment. Interior repairs will be completed first, followed by exterior improvements.

STAFFING – Ed Harris is the new Superintendent, and the hunt is on for an Assistant Superintendent. DEP and EPA recommends staffing of 4.5 people, which will be reviewed in the future. With millions invested it is paramount we maintain the infrastructure in place.

MUNICIPAL UTILITIES – Street lights were in 100% working order for the first time since purchasing them from CMP. We welcome our new contract electrician, JNM Electric, who has been a true asset in turning this around.

This month the solar array produced 68,221 kWh of electricity that went to the grid. We were designed to produce 64,848 kWh. CMP bills totaled \$15,818.63 and the Town had \$15,585.44 in credits, with electricity costing a total of \$233.19 for the month.

The solar panels on the roof of the Environmental Department office building and garage produced very well and was all used in the treatment facility. We are hoping to generate more than 70,000 kWh's next month which should equate to no more than a \$200 bill owed.

SEWER, STORM, AND CLEAN WATER COLLECTION SYSTEM –Testing continues of the clean water and drain systems throughout town and at a variety of times. Results are being assessed.

FINANCIALS – The department has expended 4.36% of the FY24 budget at the end of July. This percentage spent is on target for the 12-month fiscal year. Many repairs and projects lie ahead for the department, with more information to come in future monthly reports.