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For Immediate Release

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Niagara Falls Water Board Responds to Report of Discharge into Lower Niagara River

The on-line version of the Buffalo News has reported the presence of “inky smelly, black water” in an area of the Niagara River near where the Maid of the Mist attraction operates below the falls.

The substance discharged is a result of the routine maintenance of one of the water board’s wastewater sedimentation basins located at the Waste Water Treatment Plant on Buffalo Avenue. The “inky water” is the result of a routine, necessary, and short term change in the waste water treatment process. We apologize for causing alarm to residents, tourists and others.

The blackish water contained some accumulated solids and carbon residue within permitted limits and did not include any organic type oils or solvents. The unfortunate odor would be limited to the normal sewer water discharge smell.

NFWB remains committed to the highest quality of waste water treatment and the treatment and distribution of drinking water consistent with public health laws and regulations, the public enjoyment of natural resources, the protection of fish and wildlife and the economic development of the city of Niagara Falls, NY.