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Niagara Falls Water Board Offers Additional Comments on August 15th Overflow

Organization working collaboratively with NYSDEC to analyze situation and undertake facility tour and examination

AECOM also continuing review efforts and expected to provide confidential recommendations in coming week

Niagara Falls, NY – The Niagara Falls Water Board (NFWB) today offered additional commentary regarding an overflow that occurred on August 15th, following a heavy rain event in Niagara County. This volume overflow situation was formally reported via the SPDES permit and NY Alert System yesterday afternoon.

“What happened on Tuesday was a heavy rain event,” said Rolfe Porter, NFWB Executive Director. “During these events the waste water treatment plant receives more water than it can process and is permitted to overflow the hundred foot weir. This situation, which was different than the July 29th discharge incident, was formally reported through our permit and the alert system.”

This afternoon, executive and professional staff from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) visited the NFWB facilities for follow-up meetings and a tour of the wastewater treatment plant, all as part of a wider analysis of the overflow and the separate matter of the July 29th discharge.

“The NFWB permit takes into account the design limitations of the existing wastewater treatment plant, which has a filtering capacity of 60 million gallons per day,” continued Porter. “The team is currently looking at the actual amount and volume that entered the system on August 15th, in order to get a full and accurate calculation. As was discussed with the DEC, our organization continues to look at potential updates and improvements that could enhance our filtering capacity.”

Earlier this year, the NFWB retained global engineering firm, AECOM, to utilize the firm’s expertise in wastewater infrastructure, and determine potential facility improvements and recommendations. The firm has also been tasked to analyze the July 29th discharge incident. AECOM’s original hiring was actually prior to the July event and is not at taxpayer expense.

The NFWB will continue to provide periodic public and ratepayer updates on this matter as information becomes available. Updates will be available at www.NFWB.org.

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