



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Update on Pump Failure at Niagara Falls Water Board Gorge Pumping Station

As the Niagara Falls Water Board (NFWB) previously advised, one of the three 500-horsepower, 13-million-gallon-per-day pumps at its Gorge Pumping Station has failed at a time when another of the pumps is out of service because it is being replaced. This has resulted in Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) discharging into the Lower Niagara River, with the nearest cross-streets being Whirlpool Street and Ashland Avenue. The bulk of this flow is stormwater/runoff and not sewage. Wet weather forecasted for Wednesday, June 1, 2022 may increase flows to the Gorge Pumping Station and the volume of the resulting overflow.

After extensive efforts to identify and remedy the condition causing the pump failure, it has been determined that failure of mechanical components and not electrical issues have damaged the pump beyond repair. The Water Board has been working to replace all three pumps at the Gorge Pumping Station as part of a \$4.4 million project to rehabilitate the Gorge Pumping Station, and these pumps originally were scheduled to be replaced more than one year ago to avoid reliability issues. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 related backlogs in equipment production and deliveries beyond the control of the Water Board or its contractors, the replacement pumps arrived on site earlier this month, more than 12 months behind schedule. On receipt of the new pumps, work to install them promptly commenced.

As of today, multiple contractors are on site completing work required to start the new pump which will restore Gorge Pumping Station pumping capacity to normal levels. The new pump is expected to be in service by Thursday, June 2, 2022.

The NFWB will continue to provide applicable updates as information becomes available, via www.NFWB.org.

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