



① BOS info
② item add
for consent

8/4
⑬

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

Acton Board of Health - Telephone 978-264-9634 - Fax 978-264-9630

July 16, 2003

BOS - STAFF HAS
PREPARED THIS RECOMMENDATION
FOR THE BOARD'S CONSIDERATION.

TO: Don Johnson, Town Manager
FROM: Doug Halley, Health Director *DH*
SUBJECT: Unexpected Wastewater Discharge from Senior High School

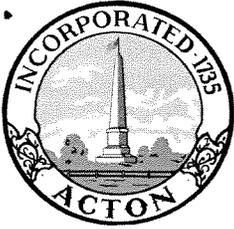
On July 11th the operator of the wastewater treatment plant, Woodard & Curran, informed the Health Department that the average flows at the plant which had been averaging about 75,000 gpd but had recently jumped to about 130,000 gpd. Following up on this unexpected substantial increase the operator inspected all the pump stations and backtracked the water source to Pump Station #5. This is the pump station that services the school system. The average flows from the school, since school has been out, had been averaging about 2,200 gpd, however, from the 7th to the 10th of July the flows jumped up to about 55,000 gpd. The flows have been confirmed by the runtime meters at the station.

The Treatment Plant operator indicates that this unexpected flow of water has increased the use of hypo-chlorite and electrical run times at the treatment plant and the electrical run times at the Charter Rd., Mass. Ave. and River St. Pump Stations. Although the influent at the Treatment Plant was diluted it was still wastewater and had to be processed through the full treatment processes at the Plant.

When informed of the problem the school staff responded quickly and checked all discharge points from the high school. At a manhole adjacent to the Library they found that an 8" pipe coming from the facility into the manhole was discharging to the point of filling the pipe 1/3 to 1/2 full of clear water. Based on their description and assuming a flow rate of one foot per second an 8" pipe 1/3 full of water would discharge between 50,000 gpd to 60,000 gpd. From there they backtracked to the flushometer and when that was corrected the flow returned to normal.

This discharge as noted by Woodard & Curran increased the costs of operation for the plant during that time period. The Town's Sewer Use regulation prohibits the disposal of "unpolluted water". Unpolluted water is defined by the regulations as "water quality equal to or better than the effluent criteria in effect or water that would not cause a violation of receiving water quality standards and would not be benefited by discharge to the sewers and wastewater treatment facilities provided". The water coming from the schools was not tested but the water from the open flushometer was certainly pure water and even as it mixed with the existing wastewater within the school it still was at least 95% pure water and therefore potentially defined as "unpolluted waters".

Because this discharge occurred during the summer water usage period it will not be reflected in future billings to the school system. It is the Department's recommendation that the School System be issued a supplemental bill for the discharge that occurred. Attached with this memo is a draft bill based on the additional gallons discharged by the School system from July 7th to July 14th at the rate established for July 2003. Because the discharge was accidental, the School system responded in a timely fashion and the budget constraints that the school faces the Health Department would recommend that 50% of the bill be waived by the Sewer Commissioners.



Town of Acton

Collector's Office - Wastewater Treatment
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720
(978) 264-9618

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
7/18/2003	

Bill To
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District c/o Bill Ryan 16 Charter Road Acton, MA 01720

Property Location
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District High School Hayward Road Acton, MA 01720

Parcel ID	Terms	Due Date	Tie-in Date
F2-50	NET 30	8/18/2003	02/25/02

Description	Gallons	Rate	Amount
Extra-ordinary sewer discharge for 7 days - July 7 thru 14, 2003	217,000		
Minus ordinary flow for 7 days - July 7 thru 14, 2003	<u>21,877.8</u>		
Net extra-ordinary sewer discharge for 7 days - July 7 thru 14, 2003	195,122.2	0.0166	3,239.03

Interest of 14 % per annum will accrue on overdue payments from the due date until payment is made.	Total	\$3,239.03
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PLEASE RETURN ONE COPY OF THIS INVOICE WITH YOUR PAYMENT!
THANK YOU !

Please make check payable to: TOWN OF ACTON