

**TOWN OF OAK ISLAND**  
**Annual Wastewater Treatment and Collection Report**  
**July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024**

Oak Island Water Reclamation Facility  
4600 Fish Factory Rd.  
Oak Island, NC 28465  
Permit # WQ0005790  
Expiration Date: 7-31-2027

Kenneth VonVoigt (ORC)

Satellite Water Reclamation Facility  
5209 E. Yacht Dr.  
Oak Island, NC 28465  
Permit # WQ0031857  
Expiration Date: 5-4-2030

Steve Poarch (ORC)

The Oak Island Water Reclamation Facility is designed to treat 400,000 gallons per day, which allows for growth within the system; average daily flow for this past FY was 143,426 gallons per day with a max day of 260,600 on August 23rd, 2023. There are several options for treating wastewater, but this plant was built as what is known as an *Activated Sludge* plant. To provide you with a general description of the plant, we will follow the path of the wastewater as it passes through the plant.

When wastewater enters the plant, it flows through a splitter box; the box has a bar screen and allows for some debris and grit removal. The water then flows into aeration tanks. Oxygen is supplied by extreme mixing, and microorganisms are grown to feed on organic contaminants. This is the Activated Sludge part, referred to as secondary treatment. As these microorganisms grow, they form particles that clump together (called *floc*). As the water passes from the aeration tanks into the secondary clarifier tanks, it is slowed down and allowed to settle. The floc falls to the bottom and is removed and sent back to the beginning of the aeration process to do more work, and the mostly clear water, free of organic matter and solids, is allowed to flow over and out of the tanks. This process is highly efficient, with more than 98% removal of organic material. The water then travels through the chlorine contact chamber which is used to provide for disinfection to destroy any remaining bacteria; after about 30 minutes it then flows through the weirs, which apply the flow evenly over a filter bed system; this allows further removal of the remaining solids. From there it flows out of the plant and can be disposed of by placing it into a rapid infiltration pond, which will allow the water to infiltrate back into the ground, or by placing it into a lined storage pond which will be used to spray (irrigate) around the treatment plant and Bill Smith Park.

The operation of the plant's processes requires monitoring and testing on a continuous basis. The plant maintains a laboratory for testing the quality of the water as it passes through each plant process and the sludge quality. Contract laboratory testing is also used to assure compliance with the stringent regulatory requirements of the Permit. The permit specifies the monthly average and maximum levels of settleable solids, suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand, ammonia nitrogen, total kjeldahl nitrogen, residual chlorine, fecal coliform, chloride, temperature, flow, and the pH of the effluent discharge. The Town performs more than 2,200 tests on an annual basis. Through the year 2023 2024 the plant has received several notices of violations for fecal, Bod, and Cod overages. Upon investigating with DEQ, NC Rural water and W.K. Dickson an engineering firm which helped conduct a study using sample results from within the collection system resulted in the findings of a toxic chemical that was affecting the treatment process beyond the control of the operators and staff. It has been determined that the chemical entered through the collection system, then sent to treatment plant. Using portable samplers have narrowed it down to several area lift stations. We continue to keep DEQ informed when we get contaminated. As of now we are back in Compliance.

The Town also has a 400,000 gallon per day Satellite Water Reclamation Facility which uses membrane technology for its treatment process. The facility was placed online September 1, 2015. The disposal of the effluent from this facility is placed into rapid infiltration ponds on the Oak Island Golf Course and then is utilized for irrigation. The facility has been in compliance since July 1, 2019. No violations were received from the State. The facility has been currently out of operation this past year due to discharge panel at Oak Island Country Club damaged from an electrical storm. Repairs to the system and the arrival of new membranes will have the facility fully operational.

**Town-wide Collection Permit**

Permit # WQCS00334

Expiration Date: 1-31-26

Mark Moore   Operator in Responsible Charge

The Town's collection system for Fish Factory Plant Treatment Facility is in two sections within the Town limits: 79<sup>th</sup> St. eastward to Oak Island Dr. on the golf course and from 46<sup>th</sup> St. to 65<sup>th</sup> St. along E. Oak Island Dr. (Commercial Corridor). The collection system contains gravity lines from 6" to 15", force mains from 2" to 6" and with service lines ranging from 4" and 6". There are 16 duplex grinder pump lift stations within this system; each one is equipped with a telemetry alarm system (SCADA). The Town of Caswell Beach has a connection point located at the intersection of HWY 133/Yaupon Way to send wastewater to be treated at Fish Factory.

The remainder of the collection system is primarily the Vac System. The Vac System consists of 9 Vac Stations, 17 Duplex Grinder Pump Stations, 17 Dual Buffer Tanks, 2 Single Buffer Tanks, 5500 Vacuum Pits, Vacuum Mains sizing from 4" to 10", and Force Mains from 6" to 24". The Town has a main lift station located at 103 E. Oak Island Dr., which pumps the collected sewer to the County's West Brunswick Regional Wastewater Plant for treatment and disposal.

The Town has equipment for videoing and cleaning of gravity sewer lines. The Town is required to clean 10% of gravity lines annually. Within the Town, there are approximately 13 miles of Gravity lines, 82 miles of Vacuum Main and 20 miles of Force Mains. The Town cleaned and video inspected approximately 4.1 miles of gravity lines; along these lines the manholes and service connections were inspected. Town staff cleans out debris and grease from the lift stations monthly to help reduce odor problems.

The town now has Four (4) by-pass pumps for the larger lift stations and vac stations to keep them operational during power outages or mechanical failures. The flow for the Middleton Station to the County was 340,700,000 gallons for a daily average of 933,424 gallons.

The Town also has an inventory of spare parts for lift stations, vac stations, and vacuum pits, along with line repair items for gravity, vacuum and force mains of all sizes. The Utilities Department has a five-year capital improvement plan that is reviewed annually by staff.

Many of you may see employees walking the streets and yards and wonder, "What are they doing?" Well, the system requires bi-annual inspections and maintenance. If you are on a vacuum system, you may have a vacuum pit in your lawn. Inside that pit, there is a vacuum valve. Twice a year the valve is inspected and evaluated to ensure it is operating properly. The vacuum is generated from our vacuum stations. The vacuum stations are equipped with three vacuum pumps and two sewage pumps. The pumps are monitored and inspected daily. When a vacuum valve fires, it makes a distinct sound through the vent pipe for three to four seconds. If you hear a suction noise coming from the vent pipe at your home for a long period of time, the valve is probably misfiring. A crew will be called in and will check vacuum pits until they find the misfiring valve. Please, if you hear this sound, call us at (910) 201-8007 or after hours at (910) 278-5595, and let us know as soon as possible. Your call is greatly appreciated.

If you are on the gravity system, you will see a control panel which is somewhat distinctive because it is equipped with a red light and information sign. The red light is a warning light so if you see the red light flashing or hear an alarm from the control panel, we ask that you call us immediately. Why? Because that alarm means it needs immediate attention, and you can be of great help to us by calling (910) 201-8007 or after hours at (910) 278-5595.

For this reporting cycle, the Town had approximately 50 vacuum pits malfunction for which corrective measures were performed; some of the corrective items performed included replacement on controllers, no-hubs and actuators.

The Town's "Fats, Oils, and Grease Program" (FOG) has been in effect for 15 years. The purpose of the program is to prevent the accumulation of fats, oils, and grease in the sanitary sewer system. We have 30 commercial facilities with 20 grease traps participating in the program. Our FOG coordinator inspected 10 grease traps this year. Town staff continues to clean and video the gravity portion of the collection system. All of us can work together to protect the environment and maintain the sewer infrastructure. To educate the public on FOG, we sent out an educational pamphlet in the June 2020 water bills. It is also posted on the website.

IN September 0f 2023 The North Carolina Division of Water Resources conducted an inspection of Oak Island Collection System. This inspection verified that the facility is operating in compliance with the conditions and limitations specified in Collection Stem Permit.

#### Information on the Internet:

Visit the Town of Oak Island's website to view and print this report at ([www.oakislandnc.com](http://www.oakislandnc.com)) and for information on all town departments and departmental contacts. Also, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources has a Website (<http://deq.nc.gov/contact/regional-office/wilmington>) that provides complete and current information on water and wastewater issues in North Carolina.

#### Town of Oak Island Public Access Channel

Please view the Town of Oak Island's Public Access Channel on Time Warner Cable Channel 8 for coverage of Council meetings, information on sewer and water activities, street closings, community announcements, and other information relevant to Town activities.

For more information about this report, copies, or any questions relating to the wastewater treatment system, please call Mark Moore, Wastewater Superintendent, at (910) 201-8023.

#### CERTIFICATION:

I certify under penalty of law that this report is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further certify that this report has been made available to the users or customers of the named system and that those users have been notified of its availability.

Date 9/22/21

Mark Moore  
Wastewater Superintendent  
Town of Oak Island