

# Real Potential Threats from Wastewater System Failure

NEED FOR PROACTIVE MONITORING  
AND MAINTENANCE SYSTEMS NOW!



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- DEP has reporting hotline for “wastewater incidents”
- “On average, the State Watch Office receives two wastewater incident notifications ***a day*** for the entire state.” Emphasis added
- 2/3 of spills are under 10,000 gallons ... but still!
- Examples of spill events
  - “The ‘all clear’ is given after 3,000 gallons of untreated wastewater spilled into a tributary of Chaney Creek in Jacksonville [North Carolina].”  
Source WITN.com, clarification added, spill occurred July 24, 2015



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“A mechanical issue causes a wastewater spill Friday in Jacksonville [North Carolina].

“ONWASA says the incident occurred at the Heritage Village Pump Station Friday morning. A ***mechanical joint on a newly-constructed force main separated***, allowing the ***release of about 20,000 gallons of wastewater***.

“ONWASA crews were ***able to recover about 5,000 gallons*** and repairs to the force main were made under warranty by the contractor.”

Source: WITN.com, clarification and emphasis added, spill occurred September 25, 2015



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“Major plumbing failures and accidents sent ***nearly 17 million gallons of raw sewage***—enough to cover a square mile with waste a foot deep—cascading into ***Southwest Florida*** neighborhood streets and vital waterways last year...

“Among the biggest events:

- In November, 1.5 million gallons erupted from a pipe running along Sarasota's scenic bayfront.
- In June, 3.5 million gallons poured from a pipe leading to Bradenton's treatment plant.
- In March, 5.8 million gallons burst from a pipe in Tampa.”

Source: Herald Tribune, 2012, emphasis added



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- Coliform bacteria in Keys raw sewage

**10,000,000**

**to**

**100,000,000 colonies**

**per 100 ml**

Source: Engineering Report for Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District Wastewater Treatment Facility Major Permit Modification, August 2012

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	<b>Raw Sewage</b>	<b>Standards</b>	
		<b>AWT</b>	<b>BAT</b>
Biological Oxygen Demand	<b>150-350</b>	5	10
Total Nitrogen	<b>60</b>	3	10
Total Phosphorus	<b>6-10</b>	1	1

Units: mg/l

Source: Engineering Report for Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District Wastewater Treatment Facility Major Permit Modification, August 2012

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## LINE BREAK

A water main break on Grassy Key Friday caused water outages for about a mile. At press time, the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority was investigating what caused the 30-inch transmission leak. Brent Crenney, FKAA operations manager for Marathon, said the pipe has a capacity of between 160 and 200 pounds per square inch. Most of the pipes in the Keys carry a much lower capacity of about 30 psi. There was also a line break on County Road 905 in Key Largo.

Photo and reporting by  
TAYLOR ROCKMAN



Wastewater high pressure transmission lines being designed for 130 psi!