

# Harford County Water and Sewer Annual FMDL Performance Summary 2016

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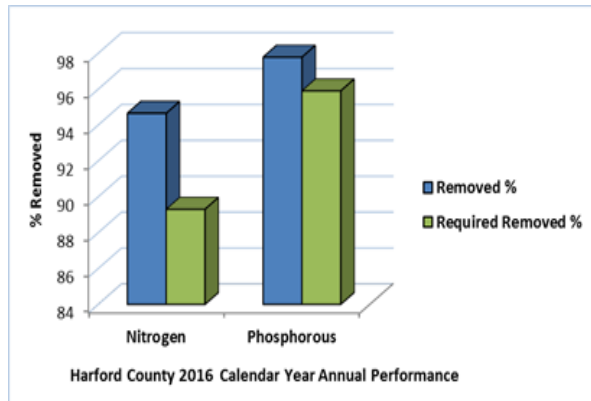
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**Barry Glassman**  
**Harford County Executive**



# Wastewater Treatment Performance

For calendar year 2016, Harford County Division of Water and Sewer once again achieved even greater reduction of nutrients from wastewater treated at its two major treatment plants than required by the federal Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The TMDL can be envisioned as a diet for the Bay - the maximum amount of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous) the Bay can utilize and still meet water quality standards.



Sod Run, the largest wastewater treatment plant in the county (and 7<sup>th</sup> largest in the state), treated 4.1 billion gallons of water during calendar year 2016 and removed 725 tons of nitrogen, 29 tons more than required by the TMDL. Likewise, 131 tons of phosphorus were removed during the same period, 2.2 tons more than required at this treatment facility to meet the Chesapeake Bay Total TMDL.

Our Joppatowne treatment plant, treated 328 million gallons of wastewater and removed 45 tons of nitrogen, 2 tons more nitrogen than required, and over 12,183 lbs of phosphorous, 383 lbs more phosphorus than the allotted amount for the Joppatowne treatment facility to meet the Chesapeake Bay TMDL requirement.



# Drinking Water Performance

Our dedicated professionals operate three drinking water facilities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In 2016, we produced an average of 12.3 million gallons of water a day, ensuring residents and businesses have reliable access to clean, safe drinking water. Our assets include nearly 700 miles of water mains and laterals, 12 storage tanks, 12 booster stations, and 4,000 fire hydrants.



In addition to our retail customers, we provide drinking water by contract to the City of Aberdeen, the Aberdeen Proving Grounds at Aberdeen and at Edgewood, as well as to the Maryland American Water Company for the Town of Bel Air and surrounding areas. Last year we performed over 211,892 tests on the drinking water to help ensure that it meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards.

Our annual water quality report for 2016 will be mailed to all water customers in the second quarter and will be posted on our website with historical annual reports.

## Water Conservation

For things you can do to conserve water and reduce your water/sewer bill, please visit our website.

<http://www.Harfordcountymd.gov/782/Water-Sewer>



# Sewer System Performance

The sewer system owned and operated by Harford County consists of over 700 miles of sewer mains running from 8” to 54” in diameter, 54 sewage pumping stations and three treatment plants. Although we carefully manage the system with a goal of eliminating all spilled untreated sewage, some cannot be totally avoided. Extraneous water from rainfall and illegal connections can cause the system to be overburdened, while debris such as rags, wipes, grease, consumer materials and roots can create blockages within the system. In addition, mechanical and electrical problems can cause pumps to fail, and pipelines to break due to age related deterioration, corrosion, and other causes and sometimes construction activities damage the system by accident or careless excavation practices.

Overall we experienced 12 recordable Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO’s) during the calendar year. This equates to 1.51 Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) events per 100 miles of sewer. This performance is considered by most to be superior when compared to the national average of 4.5 as reported by a study done by the American Society of Civil Engineers. However, we are constantly working to improve performance. You can help by properly disposing of cooking oil and other greases in a can or other container and using the trash rather than the drain. Also debris, particularly personal care and cleaning wipes even when advertised as flushable will accumulate and cause blockages to our sewers.

Please let us know if you have a concern with the sewer (odors and visible leaks). Call our service line at 410-612-1612, available to you 24 hours a day.

For a complete list of SSO events please visit our website:

<http://www.Harfordcountymd.gov/782/Water-Sewer>



## Solar Power for a Cleaner Bay

During calendar year 2016, Harford County Division of Water and Sewer purchased 2 Megawatts (2 MW) of power from the Constellation Energy Solar Farm in Perryman. The power generated by Constellation Energy was delivered directly to the Sod Run treatment plant where it powered pumps, blowers and other equipment that are essential in the treatment of wastewater. By supporting the development of renewable energy in Harford County, we helped promote economic development, reduce our dependence on greenhouse gas emitting sources, and saved approximately \$33,000 over the cost of power off the grid in the first full year of operation.

