

November 23, 2021

Wastewater Discharge at all Overflow Locations has Ended

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) recently reported that the capacity of the RDN's wastewater conveyance system was exceeded, resulting in overflow discharges of untreated wastewater into the ocean at the Brechin, Millstone, CP Rail Yard, and Chase River locations (see map). The overflows at all locations ended by Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

The temporary overflows were related to sustained and extreme wet weather events in combination with ongoing construction to complete urgent repairs to the Departure Bay Forcemain and the system that conveys wastewater to the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre. During construction, temporary structures that were put in place to accommodate the upgrade also reduced flow capacity. The pipe upgrade is now complete, and the system is restored to its full capacity, which will effectively reduce the risk of overflows related to this project.

During construction on the Departure Bay Forcemain Upgrade Project, vehicle traffic on Hammond Bay Road area near Planta Road is being diverted around in-road excavations. Construction crews will conduct final testing of the system and begin filling the excavations this week. Hammond Bay Road and Planta Road will be repaved and regular traffic flow will resume early in December 2021.

The Departure Bay Forcemain was constructed in 1974 to convey wastewater from the Departure Bay Pump Station to the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre for treatment. It carries wastewater from over half of the population in Nanaimo and is the largest of all forcemains operated by the RDN.

For information about wastewater in our region, visit rdn.bc.ca/wastewater-services.

For more information, please contact:

Regional District of Nanaimo
Regional and Community Utilities



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