



City of Newport
Department of Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

DATE: April 13, 2009

CONTACT: Julia A. Forgue, Director

TELEPHONE: (401) 845-5600

FAX: (401) 846-0947

NOTICE

Sewer Force Main Failure Update

As previously indicated United Water personnel, the City's contractor for Water Pollution Control Services, responded to Long Wharf on April 7, 2009 and identified a failure in the 36 inch concrete sewer force main that exits the Long Wharf Sewage Pumping Station. The force main is approximately 12 feet below ground and was installed in 1978. The Long Wharf Pumping station receives and pumps wastewater from the southern part of the City and Middletown's Wave Avenue pump station flow to the Water Pollution Control Facility on Connell Hwy. United Water has contracted with CB Utility Co. Inc. to make the necessary repair. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management was notified of the sanitary sewer overflow and all actions being taken. The Rhode Island Department of Transportation has also been notified of the planned work associated with the repair.

Repair work began Wednesday morning April 8th with the installation of the above ground by pass piping. Work to implement the by pass began on April 10th at 3:00 am. The work was stopped due to unknown and unanticipated conditions of significant tidal flow entering the force main and preventing draining of the line in order to proceed with the repair. The condition of the entire force main is now in question. The bypass piping is now being installed from the Long Wharf pumping station directly to the Water Pollution Control Facility. The by pass piping presently in place on Long Wharf and America's Cup Ave. will be extended to the Water Pollution Control facility following a route adjacent to the railroad tracks starting Monday April 13th. Crews will work around the clock until the by pass piping is in place. Portable pumps at the Long Wharf Pumping Station will be used for the bypass when it is implemented.

Once the by pass is implemented, the repair of the force main in Long Wharf will begin and the structural integrity of the entire force main will be inspected.

Progress on this important repair to the City's wastewater infrastructure will be provided in subsequent press releases.