



Northeast District Wastewater Update

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Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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Agenda



- Quality Assurance (QA) Audits
- SSO Reporting Requirements
- Compliance Assurance
- Inspections
- Enforcement
- Reports
- DMRs
- NED Contacts



Quality Assurance Audits

- QA Rule 62-160:
 - The QA rule requires that standard field sampling and testing follow DEP SOPs. It requires labs to be certified by FDOH for the analyte/method combination.
- The QA Audit consists of:
 - DMR Part A and Part B.
 - Field Sheets and Chain of Custody.
 - Groundwater DMR Part D.
 - Lab Reports.
 - Sampling Calibration and Verification Logs.
- Audit Findings:
 - Included in Inspection Report with compliance ratings.
 - Used to identify corrective actions needed for compliance.

For more information, please visit www.floridadep.gov/dear/quality-assurance



QA Common Errors – DMR Part A & Part B

- Percent (%) capacity is miscalculated or reported incorrectly.
- DMRs not submitted on time.
- Plant staffing is not fully recorded.
- Transcription Errors or math errors.
- Not using the correct version.
- Biosolids not be reported correctly.



QA Common Errors – Field Sheets and CoC

- Lot numbers and expiration dates of preservatives are not documented.
- Preservative are not properly recorded
- Lab field parameters do not include calibration records.
- Sample temperature is not recorded at time of receipt.
- Facility sampled does not have the permit ID information provided.
- Container types are not documented for each analytical group collected.



QA Common Errors – DMR Part D

- Exceedances/missing data are not explained in the “Comments” field or in attachment.
- Preservation type and amount not listed for samples taken.
- Flow rate during sample collection were not recorded or appropriate for analytes collected.
- All columns are not complete for each parameter.



QA Common Errors – Lab Reports

- Each sample is not associated with a client identification code.
- Lab's DOH Certification number is not provided.
- A statement that the results relate only to the samples listed in report is not provided.
- Each sample & its condition is not clearly described and/or does not have a unique lab sample ID #.



QA Common Errors – Logs

- Acceptance criteria for calibrations/verifications not properly documented.
- Indication of whether calibrations/verifications passed is not included.
- Value is not listed, or Unit of Standard not indicated.
- Water quality probe unique identifier are not documented.
- Samplers not being bracketed chronologically or numerically



SSO Reporting Requirements

- SSOs must be reported in accordance with F.A.C. Rule 62-604.550 & 62-620.610.
- SSOs < 1,000 gallons MUST be reported to the Department within 24 hours from the time the owner/operator becomes aware.
- SSOs > 1,000 gallons MUST be reported to the State Watch Office no later than 24 hours from the time the owner/operator becomes aware.
 - If reporting to SWO is required, a Public Notice of Pollution (PNP) can be submitted via Business Portal submission, or can be submitted on the PNP webpage, or through email or call to DEP.
- <http://floridadep.gov/pollutionnotice>.



Information for Reporting SSOs

- Name, address, and telephone number of person reporting,
- Name, address, and telephone number of permittee or responsible person for the discharge,
- Date and time of the discharge and status of discharge (ongoing or ceased),
- Characteristics of the wastewater spilled or released (untreated or treated, industrial or domestic wastewater),
- Estimated amount of the discharge,
- Location or address of the discharge,
- Source and cause of the discharge,
- Whether the discharge was contained on-site, and cleanup actions taken to date,
- Description of area affected by the discharge, including name of water body affected, if any; and,
- Other persons or agencies contacted.



SSO Enforcement

- SSOs can result in a Memo to File, CAO, or Warning Letter which could lead to future formal enforcement and associated penalties.
- An unpermitted or unauthorized discharge or effluent limitation exceedance for a domestic or industrial wastewater violation not involving a surface water or groundwater quality violation. [403.121(3)(b)]
 - Could result in up to a \$4,000 fine per incident.
- An unpermitted or unauthorized discharge or effluent limitation exceedance that resulted in a surface water or groundwater quality violation. [403.121(3)(b)]
 - Could result in up to a \$10,000 fine per incident.



SSO DEP Portal

- DEP Business Portal.
 - <https://www.fldepportal.com/DepPortal/go/home>.
- SSOs are entered directly by responsible entity to ensure accurate spill information.
- Reduces time spent on multi-agency notifications.
- Notifies District office, populates Public Notice of Pollution and notifies DOH if within one mile of healthy beaches monitoring location.
- Auto-populates nearby water bodies, if needed for report.
- Auto-reminder email to finish report if not completed within five days.



SSO – What's wrong with this report?

- “The building serviced by this sewage line is vacant and is used infrequently... Clear water pooled in the pit where the vertical clean-out pipe was located but the amount was well below the reportable quantity.”



SSO – The incident in question



- Observed during a compliance inspection
- No notification of spill prior to the inspection.



Compliance Assurance

- Focus is on assisting facilities in coming into/staying in compliance.
- Achieved through:
 - Compliance Assistance Site Visits.
 - Inspections.
 - Outreach.
 - FRWA.



Inspections – What to Expect

- Inspection scheduling.
- Inspection day:
 - Records.
 - SSOP, hauling, certifications, BMPs, logbook, DMRs, lab data, COC, etc.
 - Facility walk through:
 - Start at headworks and follow the flow throughout the system.
 - Generator.
 - Application area/discharge point.
 - RPZs.
 - Lift stations.
- Inspection follow-up.



Inspections – Frequently Noted Deficiencies

- No permit on site.
- Overgrown ponds/full RIBs.
- Expired permit/late application.
- Lapse in flow meter calibration.
- Effluent exceedances.
- Missing/late DMRs.
- Incomplete SSOP plan.
- Incomplete or missing biosolids hauling records
- No hauling agreement
- No Lab Cert on site.



Inspections – Frequently Noted Deficiencies

- Compliance schedules not met.
- Improper equipment calibration.
- Expired buffers and dates/lot.
- Logbook incomplete and/or wrong format.
- Monitoring well maintenance.
- RPZ leaks/overdue certification.
- Incomplete groundwater field sheets.
- Composite sampler not grabbing FPC samples as required by the permit.



Inspections

- After an inspection in which deficiencies are found:
 - Verbal notification during exit conference.
 - Follow-up email.
- In-compliance letter issued if all deficiencies corrected within 30 days of the inspection.
- 30 days is extremely critical for NPDES facilities.



Compliance Assistance Offer Letter

- Common sense approach, our priority is working with you to stay in compliance or return to compliance as quickly as possible.
- Compliance Assistance Offer (CAO) letter issued if all deficiencies are NOT corrected within 30 days of the inspection.
- Communication and progress updates are key.
- If no progress after a CAO letter, this usually leads to formal enforcement.



Enforcement

- Consent Orders are most often used to resolve:
 - Remaining inspection issues.
 - Sanitary sewer overflows.
 - Effluent exceedances.
 - Chronic or TRC criteria



Reports

- Annual Reuse Reports.
- Treatment Facility Biosolids Annual Summary.
- Application Site Annual Summary.



DMRs

- Reminder to review the DMR instructions at the end of the permit.
- When the facility doesn't have biosolids transferred use NOD or 0.

CODE	DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTIONS
ANC	Analysis not conducted.
DRY	Dry Well
FLD	Flood disaster.
IFS	Insufficient flow for sampling.
LS	Lost sample.
MNR	Monitoring not required this period.

CODE	DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTIONS
NOD	No discharge from/to site.
OPS	Operations were shutdown so no sample could be taken.
OTH	Other. Please enter an explanation of why monitoring data were not available.
SEF	Sampling equipment failure.



DMRs

- Reporting analytical results that fall below a laboratory's reported MDL or PQL.
- Be sure to use appropriate qualifier codes.

CODE	DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTIONS
<	The compound was analyzed for but not detected.
A	Value reported is the mean (average) of two or more determinations.
J	Estimated value, value not accurate.
Q	Sample held beyond the actual holding time.
Y	Laboratory analysis was from an unpreserved or improperly preserved sample.



Toxicity

- Toxicity reports must be submitted to the department via email. Send reports to DEP_NED@floridadep.gov
- Any failed test requires 2 follow up test within 28 days

Parameter		Quantity or Loading		Units	Quality	
IC25 Statre 7day Chr Ceriodaphnia	Sample Measurement				MNR	
PARM Code TRP3B P Add. Desc: Routine Mon. Site: EFD-1	Permit Requirement				100.0 (Minimum)	
IC25 Statre 7day Chr Ceriodaphnia	Sample Measurement				MNR	
PARM Code TRP3B Q Add. Desc: Additional Mon. Site: EFD-1	Permit Requirement				100.0 (Minimum)	
IC25 Statre 7day Chr Ceriodaphnia	Sample Measurement				MNR	
PARM Code TRP3B R Add. Desc: Additional Mon. Site: EFD-1	Permit Requirement				100.0 (Minimum)	



DMRs Annual Reports

- Can be taken any month of the year but must be submitted before Jan 28th
- Report period should say Jan 1 20xx – Dec 31 20xx regardless of when it was submitted or taken.



New reports required by law

2. The following improvement actions shall be completed according to the following schedule:

Improvement Action		Completion Date
a.	Submit the power outage contingency plan that mitigates the impacts of power outages on the collection/transmission system.	December 1, 2024
b.	Submit document to show that the revised facility emergency response plan portion of the facility's operation and maintenance manual plan includes cybersecurity.	December 1, 2024
c.	Submit an annual report on the collection system action plan	June 1 of each year
d.	Electronically submit an annual progress report on the facility's implementation of 403.064(17), F.S. to the Department at NPDESDischargePlan2021@FloridaDEP.gov (62-600.680(3), F.A.C.)	November 1 of each year



Power outage contingency plan

- [Rule 62-600.705\(1\), F.A.C.](#), became effective on June 28, 2023, and requires an applicant for domestic wastewater facility permit to submit a power outage contingency plan to DEP with the application for a new permit, permit renewal, or substantial permit revision. The facility's power outage contingency plan must describe the program and protocols to mitigate the impacts of power outages on the facility's collection/transmission system and pump stations. The rule implements the power outage contingency plan requirement in [s. 403.086\(2\), F.S.](#)
- The goal of a power outage contingency plan is to prevent sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) during a power loss to a pump station, a portion of a collection system, or to the entire collection system. Facilities should be able to respond quickly and effectively to power outages to prevent and stop SSOs that may endanger public health or the environment.
- <https://floridadep.gov/water/domestic-wastewater/content/collectiontransmission-system-power-outage-contingency-plans>

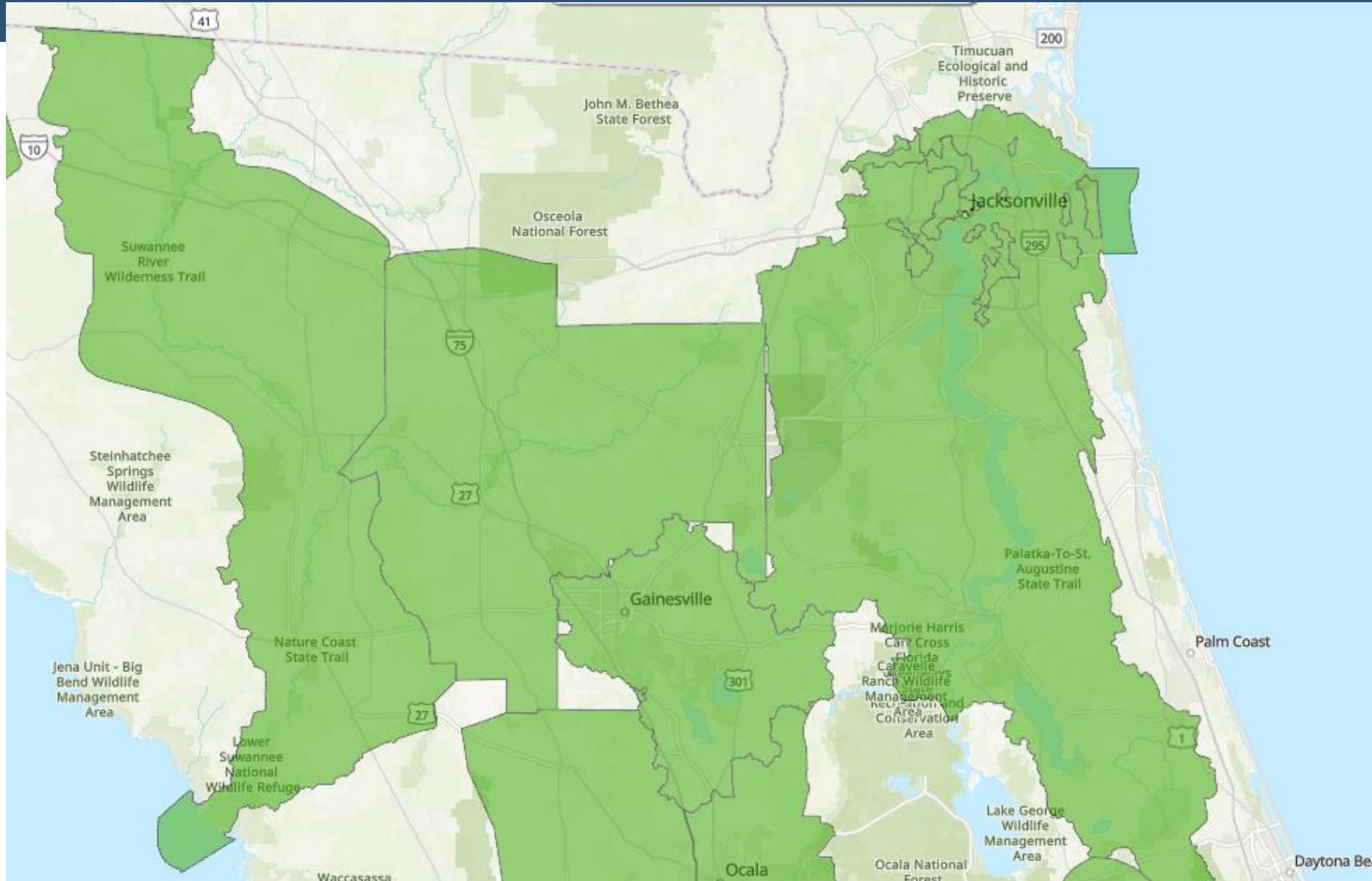


Collection system action plan

- [Rule 62-600.705\(2\), F.A.C.](#), became effective on June 28, 2023, and requires all domestic wastewater facility permittees to develop a pipe assessment, repair, and replacement action plan for the facility's collection system, i.e., a collection system action plan. A summary of the plan must be submitted to DEP with the next facility permit application for any new permit, permit renewal, or substantial permit revision. Additionally, after a facility permittee has developed and submitted a collection system action plan to DEP, an annual report on the implementation of the plan must be submitted each year by June 30
- The goal of a collection system action plan is to prevent sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) and leakages that may endanger public health and the environment. The plan is a proactive approach to assess the condition of the collection system to identify needed maintenance, repairs, and rehabilitation of the system.
- <https://floridadep.gov/water/domestic-wastewater/content/collection-system-action-plans>



Basin Management action plan





Basin Management action plan

Table 16. Wastewater effluent standards for the BMAP area

95% of the Permitted Capacity (gpd)	TN Concentration Limits for RIBs and Absorption Fields (mg/L)	TN Concentration Limits for All Other Land Disposal Methods, Including Reuse (mg/L)
Greater than 100,000	3	3
20,000 to 100,000	3	6
Less than 20,000	6	6



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THANK YOU

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