



**For Immediate Release**

July 25, 2019

Contact:

Ray Clarke, County Engineer

Talbot County Department of Public Works

(410) 770-8170

**SEWAGE SPILL ON RADCLIFF AVENUE, ST. MICHAELS, MARYLAND**

On Thursday, July 25, 2019, the Talbot County Sanitary District confirmed a sewer spill associated with the disconnection of a sewer line serving four (4) houses on Radcliff Avenue in St. Michaels, Maryland. After conducting an investigation into the discharge of the wastewater it was determined that the disconnection of the sewer lateral occurred on February 28, 2019 when a contractor, working on behalf of Talbot County Sanitary District, replaced a section of sanitary sewer force main and failed to reconnect an active sewer lateral to the force main.

Further investigation of the discharge indicated that the wastewater from the unconnected lateral flowed into an adjacent storm drain before being discharged into a roadside grass lined drainage way along Radcliff and Seymour Avenues. During rain events, stormwater was contaminated with this untreated wastewater. In reviewing the discharge monitoring reports at the Region II Wastewater Treatment Plant, it rained approximately 62 days out of the 146 days that the wastewater was lost from the sewer system. During these rain events, stormwater in this area came in contact with the untreated wastewater, which ultimately made its way through 1,500 linear feet of roadside drainage before being discharged into the Miles River.

Once discovered, all evidence of the sewer discharge was immediately eliminated from the storm drain and drainage ditches through the use of a local licensed liquid waste hauler. Lime was applied to all impacted drainage ditches within 24 hours of notification of the spill.

The Talbot County Sanitary District uses a flow rate per house of 125 gallons per day. With four (4) houses being connected to the sewer line, it is estimated up to 500 gallons per day of wastewater was discharged from the houses. Over a period of 146 days, the Talbot County Sanitary District is estimating up to 73,000 gallons flowed from four (4) houses.

The Talbot County Sanitary District would like to thank the property owner that reported the problem, and Bridges Site and Utilities for responding and working to replace the sewer line and reestablish wastewater flow for the four (4) residences impacted by the interruption in sewer service.

The Talbot County Health Department's Office of Environmental Health assisted with the investigation of the discharge and after consulting with representatives from the Maryland

Department of the Environment, determined there was no immediate public health threat associated with the discharge. If the public has any questions regarding the public health determination they may contact Anne Morse, Director of Environmental Health at 410-770-6880 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or after hours by contacting the Talbot County Operations Center at 410-822-0095. The Operations Center will contact the Environmental Health Specialist on call. If the public has questions regarding the discharge or the corrective action that was taken they may contact Ray Clarke, County Engineer, at 410-770-8170.