

ONEONTA’S WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Brief History

The present wastewater facility was completed in 1977 and put into operation the same year. Under its State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit # NY0031151, the plant can treat a maximum flow of 4.0 million gallons per day (MGD). The treatment process consists of preliminary treatment, primary treatment, secondary treatment by trickling filter and rotating biological contactors, final settling, and phosphorus removal by Polyaluminum chloride addition. Sodium hypo-chlorite is added for disinfection, and sodium bisulfite is added for dechlorination. The final plant effluent is discharged to the Susquehanna River, which is tributary to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. In addition, thickened sludge is anaerobically digested, belt pressed, placed in drying beds, and subsequently trucked to a land fill.



The plant has gone through several upgrades. The first being in 1991 when the City of Oneonta approved construction of an aluminum dome to cover trickling filter #1. This kept trickling filter #1 warmer so the biological activity would continue through the winter months. This improved plant effluent quality to ensure permit compliance.

The second upgrade came in 1996 when the City of Oneonta approved construction of a bank of rotating biological contactors for ammonia removal. At this time, a sludge belt press was also installed for dewatering and sludge then began to be hauled to various landfills.

The plant has weathered two floods, the first being in 1981, with the most recent in 2006. In addition to flood mitigation measures, several improvements were completed following the 2006 flood, including new oil/natural gas and methane boilers, a complete control system for influent and effluent pumps, new air compressor and air handling system, an above flood level emergency generator, fuel tanks, and plant electrical rewiring.

Currently, funding has been secured and design is underway for a major plant upgrade, which will replace much of the older plant equipment that is nearing the end of its anticipated useful life, and will sustain, improve and/or enhance existing treatment processes. A new supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system and replacement of all electrical motor control centers (MCC’s) will be included, as well as plumbing and HVAC upgrades.

Services Provided The Wastewater Plant serves the City of Oneonta, the Town of Oneonta and accepts septage from the local septic haulers. RV septic is also accepted at no charge.



Secondary Digester



Primary Settling



Rotating Biological Contractors



Trickling Filter

For more information visit <https://www.oneonta.ny.us>