

Town of Falmouth MA New Silver Beach Wastewater System NEWEA Small Community Seminar

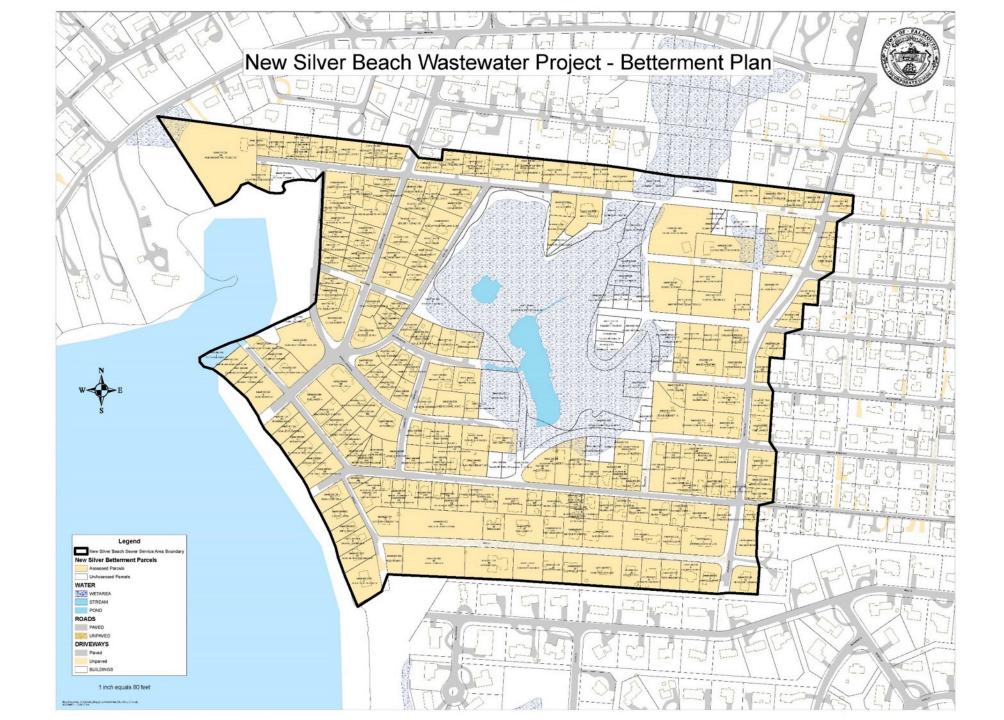
7/15/16 Amy Lowell Town of Falmouth Wastewater Superintendent

Outline

- Background/Planning/Permitting
- Design
- Construction
- Costs
- Operation
- Low flow challenges
- Performance

New Silver Beach (NSB) Area Background

- Seasonal community developed around a marsh, next to the beach
- After extreme storm event, Board of Health declared a health emergency due to septic system/cesspool issues
- Board of Health began the process of planning a sewer system



Project Alternatives

Individual onsite treatment systems

• Small lots, insufficient depth to groundwater. 66 properties would need high mound with concrete retaining wall

<u> Tight Tanks</u>

• Estimate need pump out every 8 days in summer (if 2000 gall)

Several Treatment Plant Sites

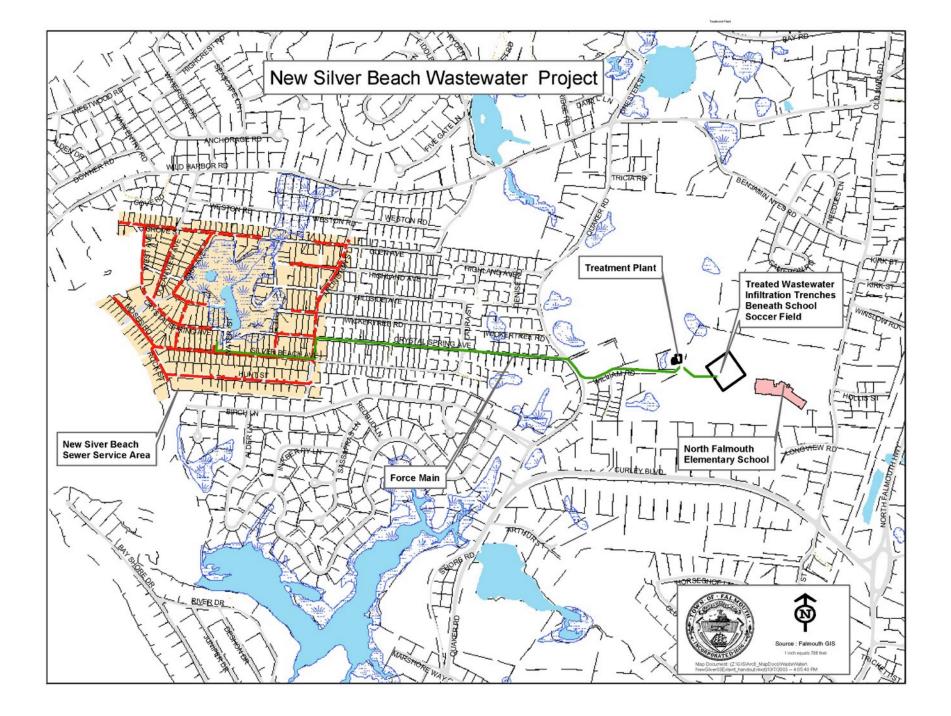
- Several sites fell through unwilling sellers or other dead ends <u>Pump to Main WWTF</u>
- Would have required ~ 4.2 mile force main and 2 lift stations
- Considered later in process would have needed new permitting, additional time, lose loan, etc

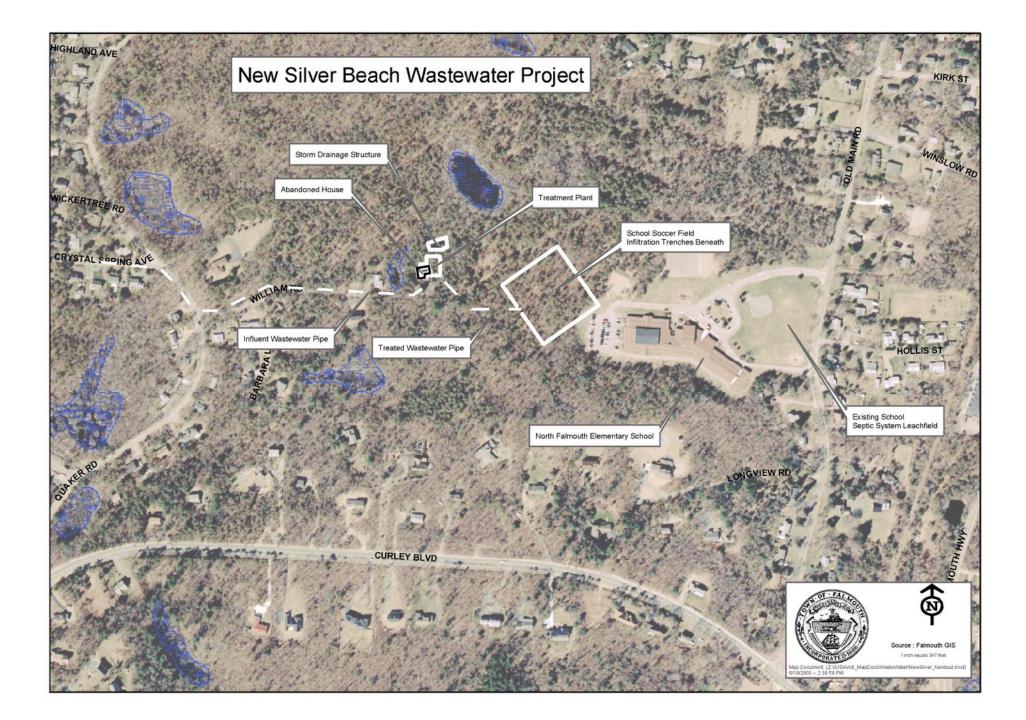
Permitting History

- 3 permits, all appealed
 - Wetland permit for treatment plant
 - Wetland permit for collection system
 - Groundwater discharge permit
- Town ultimately prevailed
- Process took many years bid project twice

Design

- Service Area: ~ 220 single family residential homes in NSB area + North Falmouth Elementary School
- One lift station, 2 small grinder pump stations serving 3-5 homes (municipal, located within road right of way)
- ~ 2 miles of gravity main, ~ 1 mile of FM
- WWTF
- Effluent to infiltration beds beneath school soccer field (by project)





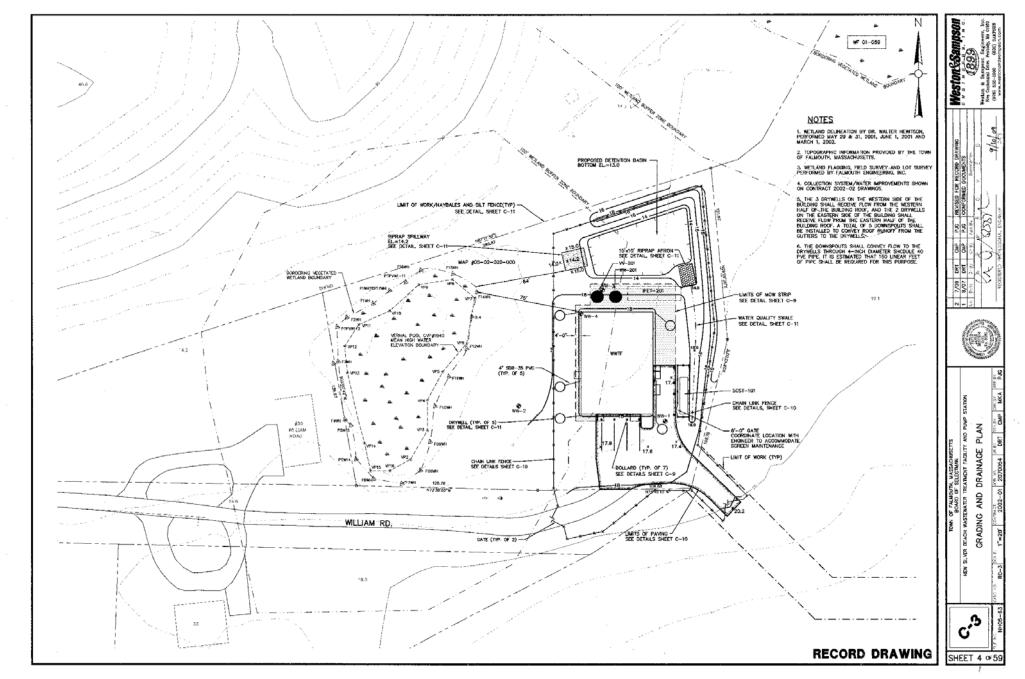
Design (Continued)

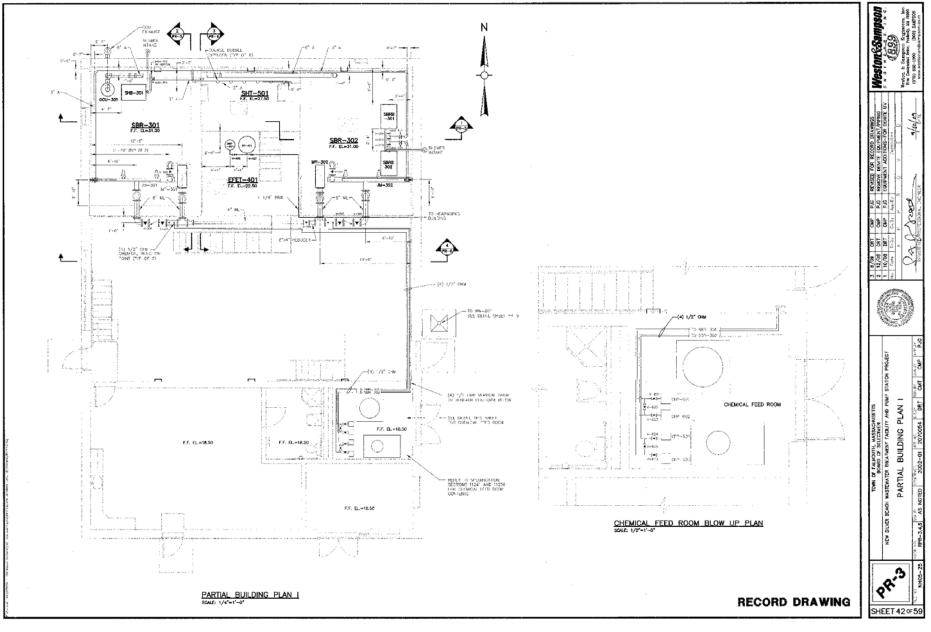
• Design Flows – based on Title V factors

- 40,000 gpd peak flow from service area + 15,000 peak flow school = 55,000 gpd. Rounded up to 60,000 gpd total.
- Discharge Permit Limits:
 - Total Suspended Solids = 30 mg/L
 - Biochemical Oxygen Demand = 30 mg/L
 - Total Nitrogen (and nitrate) = 10 mg/L

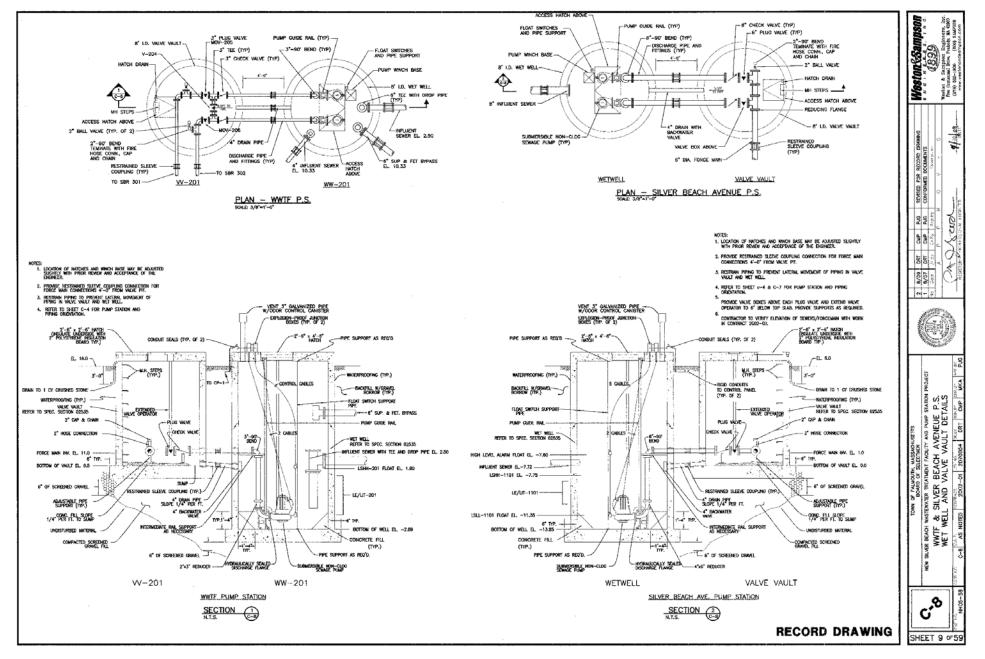
Construction

- Took ~ 1 year to complete
- Main construction challenges: Dewatering, existing utilities in poor condition and locations not well recorded, bulkhead, small WWTF site adjacent to wetlands at the end of a residential street
- Started up 2009

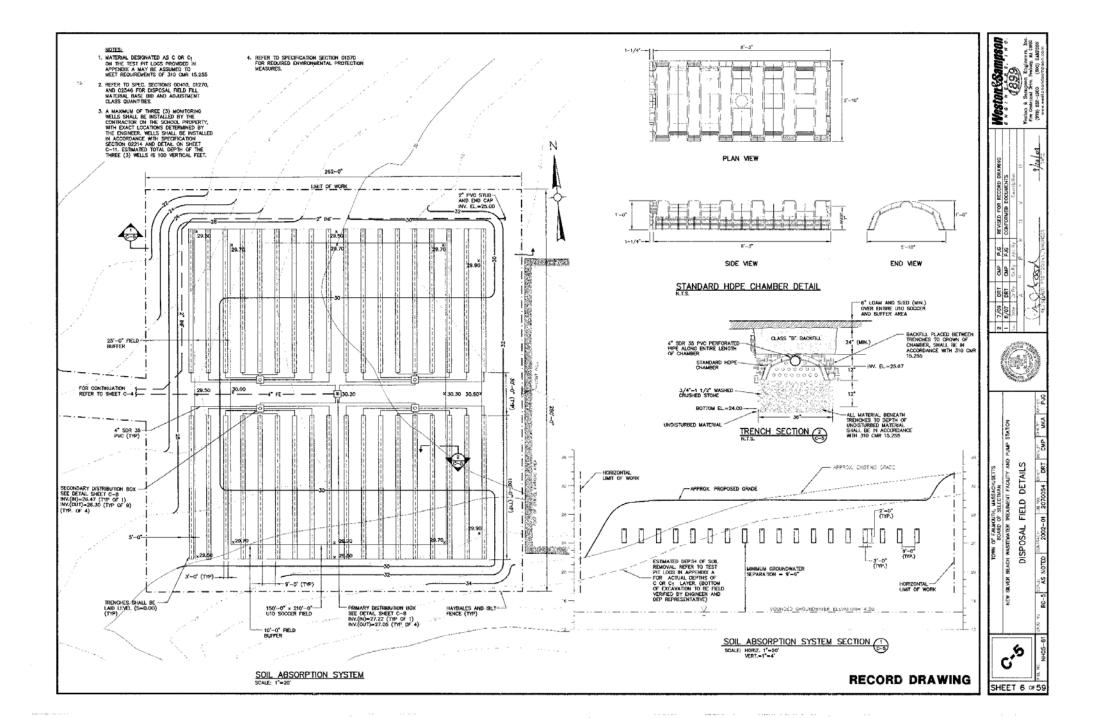




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WWTF Site Before Construction

WWTF Near Completion

2009/04/23



Shared municipal grinder pump – before and after modification



Project Appropriation and Borrowing

Year	Amount Appropriated
1997	\$3,567,000
2002	\$1,200,000
2006	\$7,733,000
	\$12,500,000

Borrowed

Bonded Total	\$1,650,000
SRF Loan Total – DEP held 0%	\$7,775,000
Total:	\$9,425,000

Cost Apportionment

Total Final Project Cost for Betterment

\$9,103,055.82

Paid By Property Owners - Betterments (70%)\$6,3Paid By Town (30%)\$2,7

Number of Assessed Properties

Betterment Cost Per Property

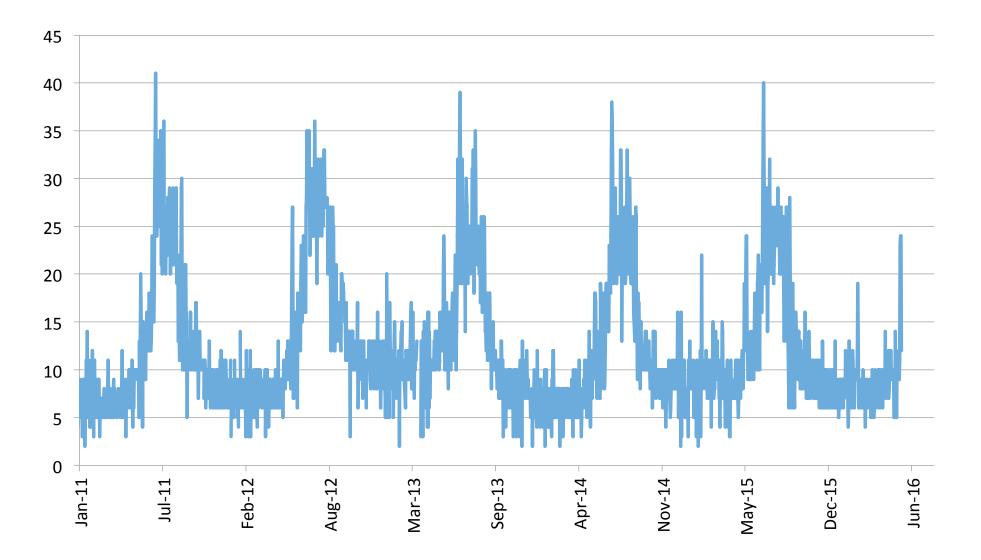
\$6,372,139.07 \$2,730,916.74

> 231 \$27,585.02

Operation

- Process flow Fine Screen, Influent Equalization Tank, Wet Well, Sequencing Batch Reactors, Effluent EQ Tank, [UV – not required yet]
- Sequencing Batch Reactors Fluidyne
 - Changed from time-based control to dissolved oxygen control after start up with fluctuating influent flow very difficult to get consistent performance using time-based control
- No sludge handling onsite. Remove sludge as necessary, truck to main WWTF for thickening/disposal.

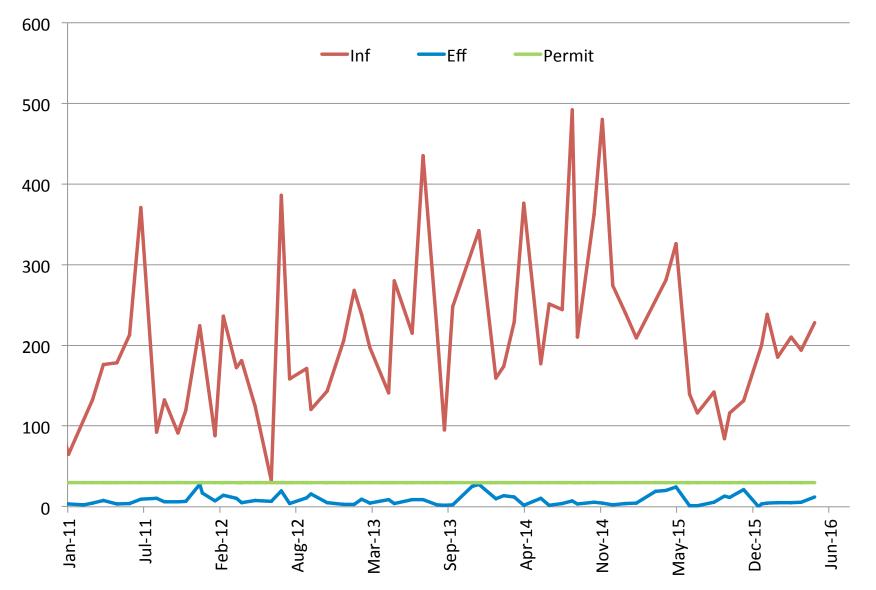
NSB WWTF Effluent Flow Over the Past ~ 5 Years (gpd x 1000)

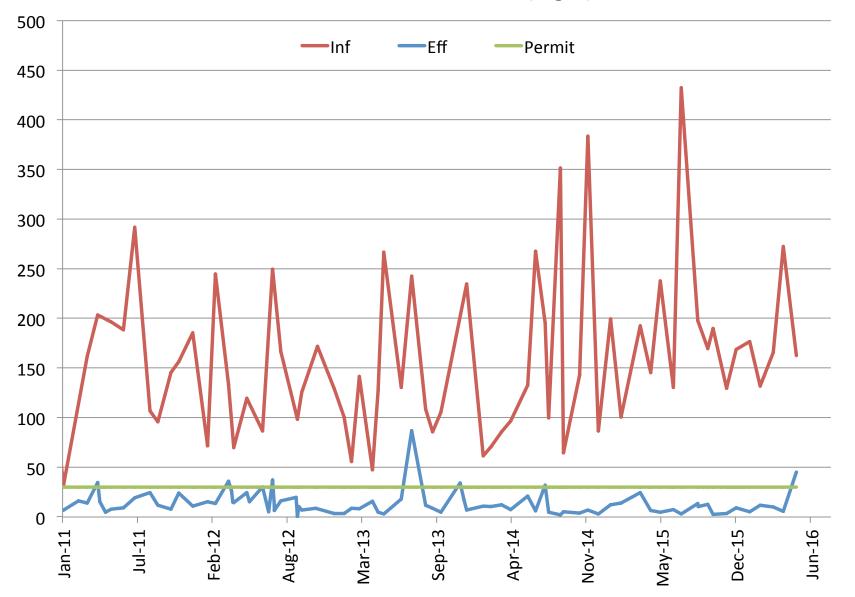


Low Flow Challenges

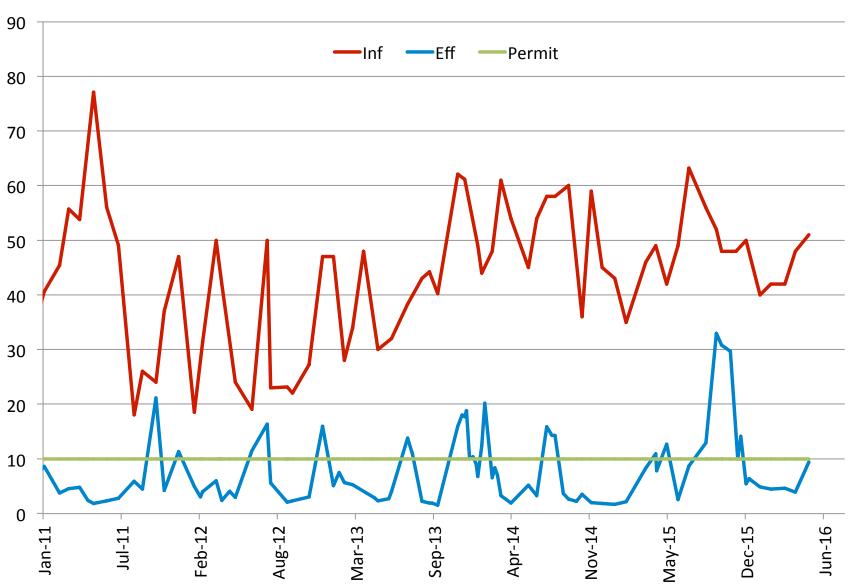
- Low flow means more variable influent concentrations
 - Individual dischargers and events can have a significant impact on the WWTF, especially during low flow periods – ex: school floor cleaning
- Seasonal flow changes require seasonal operational adjustments tank set point levels, cycle times, etc
 - Seasonal rise and fall is not steady also fluctuates day to day
- Time for O&M is not proportional to flow
- Plant performance/discharge permit can get as much attention from regulators and others as higher flow permit (attention also not proportional to flow)
- Despite challenges, WWTF has generally performed quite well

NSB WWTF Influent and Effluent Biochemical Oxygen Demand Over the Past ~ 5 Years (mg/L)

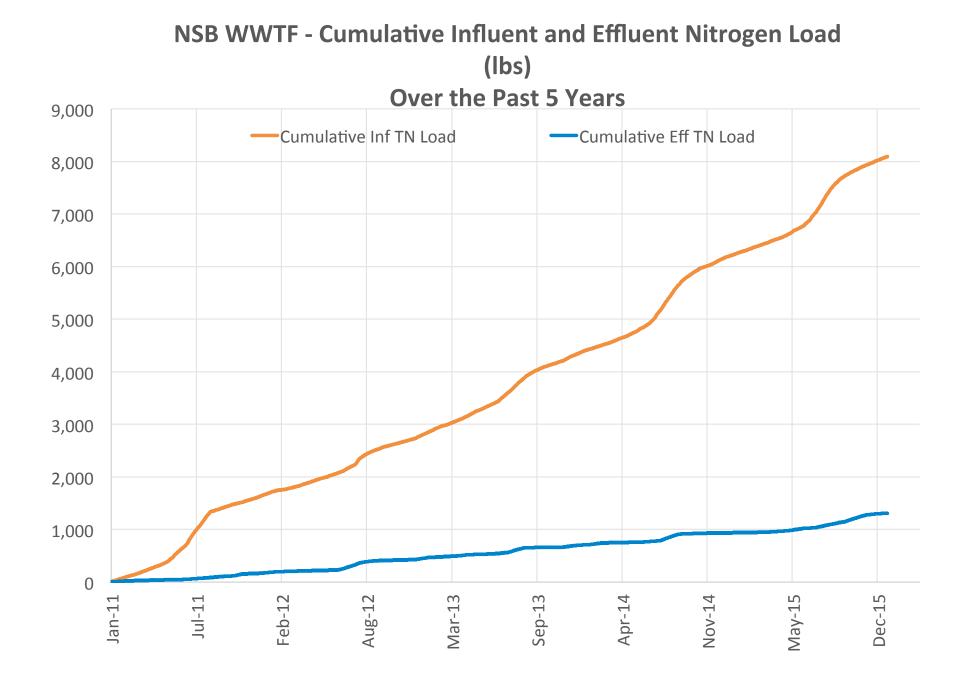




NSB WWTF Influent and Effluent Total Suspended Solids Concentration Over the Past ~ 5 Years (mg/L)



NSB WWTF Influent and Effluent Total Nitrogen Concentration (mg/L) Over the Past 5 Years



Questions?