



PRESS RELEASE

Mayor Amy B. Sherburne

The City of Olean has officially released its Annual Report for 2025 regarding the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Permit NY0027162. This report highlights the City's ongoing dedication to modernizing its wastewater infrastructure, ensuring regulatory compliance required by New York State DEC, and protecting the Allegheny River watershed.

The City has successfully finalized several key construction and upgrade milestones at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP.)

Construction, Upgrades & Inspections

- Completed sanitary sewer lining of 400' of 8" pipe, 300' of 15" pipe, 1,175' of 20" pipe and 425' of 24" pipe. This work came at a cost of \$296,675.
- 46 sanitary sewer mains were flushed for a total of 3.07 miles cleaned.
- Sanitary sewers had CCTV ran on them for inspection, approximately 1,278'.
- Disconnected 2 sewer laterals for removal of service.
- Private property inspections were completed at 605 locations which lead to 108 order of remedies to be completed (not all remedies were sewer related).
- 29 sewer backups were reported, 1 was found to have a partial blockage on the city side. These reported sewer backups resulted in 1.47 miles of sewer main being cleaned.
- 25 stormwater drainage infrastructure basins were inspected and repaired.
- 1 manhole was inspected and rebuilt.
- Monitored 6 dental facilities for compliance with the mercury minimization program.
- Monitored 7 industries for compliance with the industrial pretreatment program.
- We're currently working with Ramboll Engineering and J.M. Davidson Engineering to complete a preliminary engineering report for I/I source and reduction.

Maintenance and repairs to wastewater treatment facility

- Repaired digester #3 heat exchanger for glycol leak
- Reinstalled main pump #3 after it returned from Siewart for repairs
- Replaced pump head on effluent hypochlorite pump
- Replaced valves and some piping at a pump and metering station
- Rebuilt grit pump #1 with Koester
- Replaced block heater on 4th St emergency generator
- Replaced batteries on the WWTP emergency generator
- Replaced north primary clarifier skimmer arm
- Adjusted impeller clearances at Martha Ave to improve pumping capacity
- Replaced mechanical seal on final clarifier #3 sludge pump

- Repaired plant reclaim water system strainer
- Drained and cleaned both effluent channels twice
- Drained and cleaned both secondary clarifiers
- Drained and cleaned both grit channels
- Drained and cleaned final clarifier #3

Sewer lift station bypass events (SSO):

No sanitary sewer overflow events were experienced in 2025

The following projects were noted complete to enhance system reliability and treatment efficiency. The City of Olean remains transparent regarding the challenges posed by an aging infrastructure. Strategic efforts are being intensified to address Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) which remains a concern as excess clean water enters the sewer system.

The City is actively identifying critical "hot spots" where stormwater and groundwater compromise system capacity. These efforts are designed to mitigate the risk of unauthorized discharges and ensure the long-term health of the Ohi:yo' (Allegheny River).

The City of Olean views these accomplishments not as a conclusion, but as the start of a foundation. Comprehensive future planning is already underway to secure additional infrastructure grants for the next phase.

Work will continue throughout 2026, with a focus on pump station resiliency and further sewer main rehabilitations. The City remains committed to working alongside the New York State DEC and our community partners to provide sustainable, high-quality wastewater services for all residents.

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