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PRESS RELEASE
October 29, 2015

In mid-October the City of Oneonta began investigating a decrease in sanitary sewer flow into the wastewater treatment plant, as compared to historical averages. Using GIS, testing of surface water samples, and other information the Engineering Department, Wastewater Plant Staff, and Department of Public Service began investigating the cause of the reduction. This included visual inspections of storm water outflows, sanitary sewer manholes, and metering of sanitary sewer flow at various locations throughout the City.

On October 26, 2015 a flow variation was identified in the sanitary sewer line between Market Street and Neahwa Park. On October 28, 2015 an outside contractor was brought in with equipment sufficient to inspect the line, and a partial collapse of the underground 30" sanitary sewer line flowing near the Millrace was identified. This break is located approximately 10' beneath the surface of the bank along the south side of the Millrace. As a result of the break it appears a significant quantity of untreated domestic wastewater has been and continues to be introduced into the Millrace. The City used calculated variations in flow to best estimate the amount of discharge. The City is undertaking emergency measures to have the line bypassed and repaired as soon as possible.

The City has coordinated the appropriate notifications through NYS DEC and NY Alert. The public should avoid recreational activities in the Millrace and Susquehanna River downstream from the pipe break.

The City is working with an independent contractor to mobilize necessary equipment to bypass the sanitary sewer flow around the break and make repairs as soon as possible. During repairs the City will be further investigating, to the extent possible, the damage to determine the cause of the unexpected break.

Updates will be provided by the City as information becomes available. Further details and updates may also be viewed at www.nyalert.gov. Inquiries should be directed to the Mayor via the City Clerk's Office at 607-432-6450.