

Saw Mill River and Hudson River Stakeholder Report

Photo Credit: Artie C. (Ossining Beach)



ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE

On Monday at approximately 7pm, a notice part of the Sewage Pollution Right to Know (SPRTK) alert system provided a notice of a chlorinated discharge due to a main break in the town of Sleepy Hollow. The alert informed that for 24 hours, the discharge will release at a rate of 2,800 gallons per minute estimate - calculating to approximately 4,032,000 gallons of partially chlorinated sewage at the stated location of 42 River Street, Sleepy Hollow NY. This event led the Westchester county Health Department to put out an emergency alert which was not lifted until this morning. Brightly colored signs were placed along the river (as sampler Artie C. shared with me above). This story even caught the attention of local media. These are all admirable actions as to protect and inform community members who may use the river for recreational purposes.

On Monday at approximately 10am, a notice part of the Sewage Pollution Right to Know alert system provided a notice of a partially disinfected discharge due to a permitted CSO discharge at the Yonkers pump station due to a large rainstorm Sunday night. The alert informed that for 9.5 hours, the discharge will release a total of 14,000,000 gallons of partially treated sewage at the stated location of 19 Alexander Street, Yonkers NY.

There were no emergency alerts nor brightly colored signage placed along the riverfront after this event. There is no indication or notice of when this area of the river may become safe again for primary or secondary contact recreational use.

As I write this, another Yonkers SPRTK alert has informed me of a 10,000,000 gallon estimated partially treated discharge at the pump station next door this morning. I am still waiting for the brightly colored notices to appear near our beach or for an advisory to be placed near this discharge. The energy and response to community alerts is incredibly disproportionate. A discharge approximately 3.5 times greater in Yonkers on Monday hosts little to no response compared to the response within the affluent communities in the north. Education and science literacy is critical in communities impacted by environmental injustice such as Yonkers.

The SLC CURB Blue Team youth work diligently for 6 weeks with us over the summer to find remedy to this informational drought. They, Yonkers high school students, know how important it is to ensure that their community stays safe during these pollution events. Please consider supporting our students in their effort to raise water quality concern awareness by joining us on **Saturday August 5th from 12p-3p** at CURB for environmental day of action and fun.

Become aware of these Sewage Pollution Alerts by [signing up for notices here](#).

(DATA):

Most Probable Number (MPN) of Colony Forming Enterococcus Bacteria per 100ml sample. EPA recommends public notification and possible temporary beach closure for single Enterococcus samples above **60 cells/100ml**. Samples testing above this threshold appear in **red** on the Riverkeeper website, while those below it appear in **green**. To avoid exposure to chronic contamination, the geometric mean, a weighted 30-day average, should not exceed 30 cells/100ml. To avoid exposure to occasional high levels of contamination, no more than 10% of samples should exceed 110 cells/100ml.

Watershed	River Mile	Site ID	Site Name	Sample Date	Sampling Time	MPN*
Hudson	-	SMR-HR-20	(YONKERS) JFK Marina Boat Launch	7/13/23	10:44 A	<10
Hudson	-	SMR-HR-18.5	(YONKERS) Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club	7/13/23	12:28 P	63
Saw Mill	0.19	SMR-0.19	(Yonkers) SMR, Daylighted Section	7/13/23	11:54 A	1780
Saw Mill	1.11	SMR-1.11	(YONKERS) Walsh Road	7/13/23	12:55 P	399
Saw Mill	2.44	SMR-2.44	(YONKERS) Torre Place	7/13/23	12:40 P	583
Saw Mill	4.22	SMR-4.22	(YONKERS) Hearst Street	7/13/23	9:30 A	408
Saw Mill	4.87	SMR-4.87	(HASTINGS) S. County Trail Boat Access at Farragut Avenue	7/13/23	9:15 A	546
Saw Mill	7.9	SMR-7.9	(ARDSLEY) V.E. Macy Park Ballfields	7/13/23	9:07 A	275
Saw Mill	10.31	SMR-RB-0.13	(GREENBURG) Rum Brook Tributary	7/13/23	10:04 A	708
Saw Mill	10.41	SMR-10.41	(GREENBURG) Rum Brook Park Ballfields	7/13/23	9:10 A	414
Saw Mill	11.72	SMR-MB-0.15	(ELMSFORD) Mine Brook Tributary	7/13/23	9:02 A	908
Saw Mill	11.82	SMR-11.82	(ELMSFORD) Above Mine Brook	7/13/23	9:10 A	226
Saw Mill	14.88	SMR-14.88	(MOUNT PLEASANT) Saw Mill River Road	7/13/23	9:31 A	763
Saw Mill	17.57	SMR-NB-0.07	(MOUNT PLEASANT) Nannyhagen Brook Tributary	7/13/23	9:18 A	1014
Saw Mill	18.84	SMR-18.84	(PLEASANTVILLE) Pleasant Avenue	7/13/23	8:43 A	504
Saw Mill	20.66	SMR-TB-0.34	(NEW CASTLE) Tertia Brook Tributary	7/13/23	9:03 A	388
Saw Mill	21.18	SMR-21.18	(NEW CASTLE) Duck Pond Spillway	7/13/23	8:56 A	183



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The program is funded in part by ConEdison and is part of the Lower Hudson Urban Waters Collaborative which includes CURB, Riverkeeper, and Bronx River Alliance. Thank you Artie Carlucci for supporting our lab this week!



We also take a moment to thank YOU!

WE ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT IN HELPING US CREATE A UNIFIED VOICE SURROUNDING OUR LOCAL WATERWAYS THROUGH VOLUNTEERING, RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH. IF YOU WISH TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED AND LEARN HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

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