

EPWPCOA Excellence Award for Collection System Operations and Maintenance will be presented to VFSA at the November 3, 2023 meeting of the Eastern Operators Association

The Valley Forge Sewer Authority (VFSA) owns and operates an advanced secondary regional publicly owned treatment works permitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), in conjunction with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Currently, the wastewater treatment plant is permitted to discharge 11.75 MGD.

The VFSA provides both wastewater conveyance and treatment to its Member Municipalities: Schuylkill, East Pikeland, and Charlestown Townships. Additionally, wastewater treatment (not conveyance) is provided to the Partner Municipalities which include Easttown, East Whiteland, Tredyffrin and Willistown Townships and Malvern Borough. The Valley Forge Sewer Authority owns and operates 11 pumping stations in its member municipality collector system. The Authority also has more than 26 miles of right-of ways in these townships and nearly 3,000 manholes to maintain.

In addition to the routine O&M work in the collector system and its pumping stations, the Authority implemented a project focused on identifying sources and repairing inflows and infiltrations (I&I) throughout the collection system. These project activities have included:

- Installing portable flow meters in strategic areas to evaluate inflow and infiltration (I&I) quantities at these locations during storm events.
- Provide manhole condition assessments according to industry-accepted methodologies and provide GPS coordinates of assets.
- Utilizing a professional contractor to clean and televise sanitary sewers in the targeted drainage areas and to perform spot point repairs.
- Installing new water proof manhole frames and covers.
- Utilizing the SmartCover electronic flow monitoring system with real-time in-pipe flow measurements and alert features with notifications.
- Utilizing the Mission Control systems for monitoring and alerts on the key aspects of the pumping stations.
- Implementing appropriate activities to evaluate and address potential sources of I&I from private sewer lateral connections and potentially illegal connections to the sanitary sewer system from private households.

Electrical Service Upgrades at the VFSA Major Pump Stations

Since 2021, the Authority's has completed electrical service upgrades to the Authority's largest pumping stations. These upgrades included the removal of forty-year-old transformers, installation of new pad mounted transformers, surge protection equipment and new emergency service generators at all of the Authority's largest pump stations.