

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Water Compliance Inspection Report

United States Environmental Protection Agency

IEPA DIVISION OF RECORDS

Facility Name: City of Lawrenceville WWTP
BOW ID: W1010150002
Records Category: 01: Facility Inspections

Section A: National System Coding (i.e., PCS)

[illegible]

Section B: Facility Data

Name and Location of Facility Inspected (For industrial users discharging to POTW, also include POTW name and NPDES permit number) City of Lawrenceville WWTP 3rd and Cedar Streets Lawrenceville, Illinois 62439	Entry Time/Date 1:00 p.m. 04/24/25	Permit Effective Date 10/01/20
	Exit Time/Date 4:30 p.m. 04/24/25	Permit Expiration Date 09/30/25
	Other Facility Data	
Name(s) of On-Site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s) Aaron Tipsword, Chief Operator 618/928-7894 (cell)	IEPA - Division of Records Management Releasable OCT 31 2025 Reviewer: SAB	
Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number David Courtney, Mayor 618/943-2116 700 State Street Lawrenceville, Illinois 62439		
Contacted ☒ Yes ☐ No		

Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspections (Check only those areas evaluated)

S	Permit	---	Flow Measurement	U	Operations & Maintenance	U	CSO/SSO (Sewer Overflow)
U	Records/Reports	S	Self-Monitoring Program	---	Sludge Handling/Disposal	---	Pollution Prevention
---	Facility Site Review	---	Compliance Schedules	---	Pretreatment	---	Multimedia
---	Effluent/Receiving Waters	---	Laboratory	---	Storm Water	---	Other:

Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

SEV Codes					SEV Description
B	0	0	2	0	Improper Operation & Maintenance
F	0	2	5	S	Failure to Prevent or Minimize SSO
F	0	3	4	S	Discharge from Sanitary Sewer without an NPDES Permit
F	0	3	0	S	Failure to Submit SSO Information to Permitting Authority

Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s)  Bruce D. Rodely	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers IEPA / BOW / FOS-Marion 618/993-72000	Date 07/23/2025
Signature of Management Q A Reviewer  Joseph D. Stifely, P.E.	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers IEPA / BOW / FOS-Marion 618/993-72000	Date 07/23/2025



Illinois EPA FOIA Exemption Reference Sheet

SID: 24174

Agency ID: 170001462441

Media File Type: WATER

Bureau ID: W1010150002

Site Name: Lawrenceville City of STP

Site Address1: 3rd & Cedar St

Site Address2:

Site City: Lawrenceville

State: IL

Zip: 62439-

**This record has been determined to
be partially or wholly exempt from
public disclosure**

Exemption Type:

Redaction

Exempt Doc #: 7

Document Date: 4 /24/2025

Staff: SAB

**Document Description: WATER COMPLIANCE INSPECTION REPORT FROM RODELY TO
BENNETT**

Category ID: 01

Category Description: FIELD OPERATIONS/INSPECTIONS

Exempt Type: Redaction

Permit ID: IL0029467

Date of Determination: 10/14/2025



DATE: July 23, 2025

TO: Todd Bennett, Manager, BOW/DWPC/FOS

BOW ID: W1010150002

NPDES Permit No: IL0029467

FROM: Bruce Rodely, BOW/DWPC/FOS - Marion

SUBJECT: Lawrence County – Lawrenceville WWTP
SSO Investigation – 04/24/25, 05/29/25, 07/10/25

Sanitary Sewer Overflow Notification

On April 23, 2025, the Marion Regional Office received an email from [REDACTED] a resident at [REDACTED] in Lawrenceville, Illinois about a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) on April 5, 2025, that flooded their crawlspace under their house and yard. Aaron Tipsword, Chief Operator, was contacted and stated they had torrential rains during that time and that is what caused the SSO. Tipsword was reminded that all SSOs are to be reported to the Marion Regional Office within 24-hours and a written report was to be submitted within 5-days. Marion DWPC/FOS investigated the SSO to quantify the environmental impact and provide assistance.

April 24, 2025 Complaint Investigation

On April 24, 2025, an investigation was conducted by Bruce Rodely, DWPC/FOS-Marion, who met Aaron Tipsword, Superintendent; David Courtney, Mayor; Dawn Brewer, City Council; [REDACTED] Resident; and [REDACTED] Resident at 1:30 pm. The group discussed the situation as the sanitary sewer backed up into [REDACTED] residence and ran out onto the ground. [REDACTED] stated that this has been happening for 26 years. Tipsword stated there was a significant amount of rain that day in a short amount of time that caused the backup. I advised Tipsword that it doesn't matter how much precipitation is received SSOs are not allowed and need to be reported to the Marion Regional Office. Tipsword stated that he was not aware that SSOs from service lines needed to be reported. I explained that service line SSOs, basement backups, and any other SSO that is caused by the sewer main being surcharged needs to be reported. I then asked Tipsword the City's next steps to remediate the situation under the Capacity, Management, Operation and Maintenance (CMOM) plan.

Tipsword stated that city is working with their engineering firm, HLR, and have plans to smoke test, televise, clean, and repair where necessary along Lewis, Monroe, and Springfield streets. The city recently relined the cemetery portion of the downstream gravity mains and will check them as well.

The timeframe of getting the televising and cleaning as soon as possible with follow up smoke testing later in the season when the ground is dry was given to the residents. After getting the

results of the televising, cleaning, and smoke testing repairs will be made to the sewer main as well as removal of inflow and infiltration sources.

May 29, 2025 Follow Up

I returned to the area on May 29, 2025, at approximately 10:00 a.m. I observed Tele Scan performing televising and cleaning a portion of the sewer main on Springfield Avenue. Tipsword stated Tele Scan will be televising and cleaning approximately 4000 feet of sewer main on Springfield, Monroe, Buchanan, and Summit drives. South Lewis sewer main turns east and goes through the cemetery and that portion of line will be televised and cleaned as well. The City of Lawrenceville is working with their engineering firm to do smoke testing next in this portion of the city.

Subsequent Information

On June 16, 2025 I received a copy of the Tele Scan report from Aaron Tipsword. The report indicated fractured pipe, protruding taps, roots removed, and encrustations at several locations. The sewer pipe was also collapsed at a location upstream of the reported SSO. Roots were removed downstream of the SSO location that previously impeded flow in the sewer main. I requested a copy of the camera footage from Tipsword. A site map with notations is attached.

On June 25, 2025, I received a phone call from [REDACTED] a resident at [REDACTED] Avenue in Lawrenceville, detailing they had a basement backup on April 5, 2025. According to the complainant, they contacted the city and had approximately 30-inches of sewer backup in their basement. The complainant sent me pictures of the incident (see attached photographs). According to [REDACTED] the city has yet to respond to [REDACTED] phone call.

On July 7, 2025, I received an email from Ingrid Acevedo, DWPC/FOS-Marion, who received a voicemail from [REDACTED], a resident at [REDACTED] in Lawrenceville, for a basement backup on April 5, 2025. I tried to contact [REDACTED] and left a message on voicemail.

July 10, 2025 Follow Up

On July 10, 2025, I received a voicemail from [REDACTED] wanting to ask questions about the enforcement process at the Illinois EPA. I was in the area and stopped by [REDACTED] residence that day. We discussed the enforcement process and requesting documents through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). [REDACTED] also stated that [REDACTED] had been in contact with [REDACTED] and that [REDACTED] was still wanting to speak with me.

After leaving [REDACTED] residence I attempted to contact [REDACTED] and we met at [REDACTED] residence on [REDACTED] in Lawrenceville.

[REDACTED] explained that [REDACTED] has a [REDACTED] facility and has had numerous sewer backups in [REDACTED] basement and has contacted the city multiple times. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] has four (4) sump pumps in [REDACTED] basement and that the basement is live able and dry. The sump pumps discharge outside the house into [REDACTED] yard. [REDACTED] stated every time [REDACTED] has a sewage backup [REDACTED] has to have additional procedures completed to keep [REDACTED]. The sewage comes out of [REDACTED] toilet, shower, and sink in the basement. The sump

pumps then pump the sewage outside into [REDACTED] yard and [REDACTED] cannot let the kids access the yard afterwards. [REDACTED] went on to say that several residences along [REDACTED] Street also have sewer overflows and there are 35 children that live on [REDACTED] city block.

[REDACTED] within the last couple years had a licensed plumber install a new service line from [REDACTED] house to the sewer main as well as a new public water supply service line to make sure that there are no issues with [REDACTED] service lines.

Summary

During the interviews and Tele Scan report review the following information was obtained:

- Several SSOs happened during the precipitation event on April 5, 2025.
- The City of Lawrenceville was notified of the SSOs on April 5, 2025.
- Several other SSOs have been reported to the City of Lawrenceville prior to the April 5, 2025, SSO events.
- The City of Lawrenceville did not contact the Marion Regional Office nor file a 5-day written report within the specified timelines.
- The City of Lawrenceville has not been following their CMOM plan to keep the sewer mains in good repair and free of obstructions in the northwest part of town.
- The Tele Scan report indicated fractured and collapsed pipe upstream of the reported SSOs and blockage caused by protruding taps, roots, and encrustations at several locations including downstream of the SSO locations that impede water flow that can cause the sewer pipe to become surcharged. The televising of the sewer system was performed at a time of low flow. However, water was standing in the sewer pipe downstream of the SSO locations indicating a problem downstream that is not allowing sewer water to properly drain under gravity flow. This will cause the sewer pipe to become surcharged during times of high flow. A surcharged gravity flow pipe will cause head pressure and will not only backup but will backflow into service lines causing basement backups, and sanitary sewer overflows from service line cleanouts.

The following violations were identified:

1. Section 12(a) of the Act, which provides, in part, that no person shall cause, threaten, or allow the discharge of any contaminant into the environment so as to cause or tend to cause water pollution.
2. Section 12(d) of the Act, which provides, in part, that no person shall deposit any contaminants upon the land in such place and manner so as to create a water pollution hazard.
3. Subtitle C, Section 302.203, which provides, in part, that waters of the State shall be free from unnatural sludge or bottom deposits, floating debris, unnatural color or odor turbidity in concentrations toxic or harmful to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life.
4. Subtitle C, Section 306.304, which provides that overflows from sanitary sewers are expressly prohibited.
5. Standard Condition 4, of the NPDES Permit, which provides, in part, the permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this permit which has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.
6. Standard Condition 5, of the NPDES Permit, which provides, in part, the permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with conditions of the permit. Proper Operation and maintenance include effective performance, adequate funding, adequate operating staffing and training, and adequate laboratory and process controls, including appropriate quality assurance procedures.
7. Standard Condition 12 (f), of the NPDES Permit, which provides, in part, the permittee shall report any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment. Any information shall be provided orally within 24-hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. A written submission shall also be provided within 5 days of the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. The written submission shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and time; and if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance.
8. Special Condition 16, of the NPDES Permit, which provides, in part, the permittee shall work towards the goal of achieving no discharge from sanitary sewer overflows or basement back-ups and ensuring that overflows or back-ups, when they do occur do not cause or contribute to violations of applicable standards or cause impairment in any adjacent receiving waters.

The following recommendations are offered to assist the facility:

1. Immediately cease all sanitary sewer overflows from occurring within the Lawrenceville sanitary sewer collection system.
2. Immediately initiate efforts to clean up and maintain the areas where any future Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) occur, and any areas affected. Following clean-up, hydrated lime should be applied to the affected areas.
3. Immediately initiate efforts to televise and clean the Lawrenceville sanitary sewer collection system sewer main pipes where Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) occur to identify any damaged pipe or blockage that may allow inflow and infiltration and impede sewer flow.
4. Immediately initiate efforts to smoke test the Lawrenceville sanitary sewer collection system to identify any inflow and infiltration.
5. Immediately repair the fractured, collapsed, and separated pipe; remove protruding taps, roots, and encrustations; remove any downspout, sump pump discharge, and stormwater drains that are tributary to the collection system.
6. Review, fulfill, and update the Capacity, Management, Operation, and Maintenance (CMOM) program that was developed with a routine maintenance schedule and a routine inspection program on your lift stations and collection system to assist in the detection of problems that may be developing.
7. Review and comply with the conditions of your NPDES permit that includes reporting any Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) within the Lawrenceville sanitary sewer collection system. SSOs include but are not limited to manhole overflows, lift station overflows, and basement backups as well as service line overflows due to a charged sewer main.
8. Continue efforts to conduct and submit an engineering study of Lawrenceville sanitary sewer collection system to determine if the system is adequate to meet the peak flows. In the event the collection system requires a change in capabilities, the facility may require a construction permit from the Agency. Should you have any questions regarding the construction permitting requirements, please contact our Permit Section at 217/782-0610.
9. at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with conditions of the permit. Proper Operation and maintenance include effective performance, adequate funding, adequate operating staffing and training, and adequate laboratory and process controls, including appropriate quality assurance procedures.

BDR:lawrenceville sso 250424.docx

Attachments: 1 televising site plan
4 complainant photo pages

cc: BOW/DWPC/FOS/Marion
DWPC/CAS
BOW/DWPC/RU

COMPLAINT FOLLOW UP DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH PHOTOCOPIES

Photo # Lawrenceville SSO-001
Date: April 5, 2025
Time: Unknown
Taken By: Complainant
Facility: City of Lawrenceville
Location: [REDACTED]
Notes: Complainant pictures of
basement back up.



Photo # Lawrenceville SSO-002
Date: April 5, 2025
Time: Unknown
Taken By: Complainant
Facility: City of Lawrenceville
Location: [REDACTED]
Notes: Complainant pictures of
basement back up.



COMPLAINT FOLLOW UP DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH PHOTOCOPIES

Photo # Lawrenceville SSO-003
Date: April 5, 2025
Time: Unknown
Taken By: Complainant
Facility: City of Lawrenceville
Location: [REDACTED]
Notes: Complainant pictures of
basement back up.

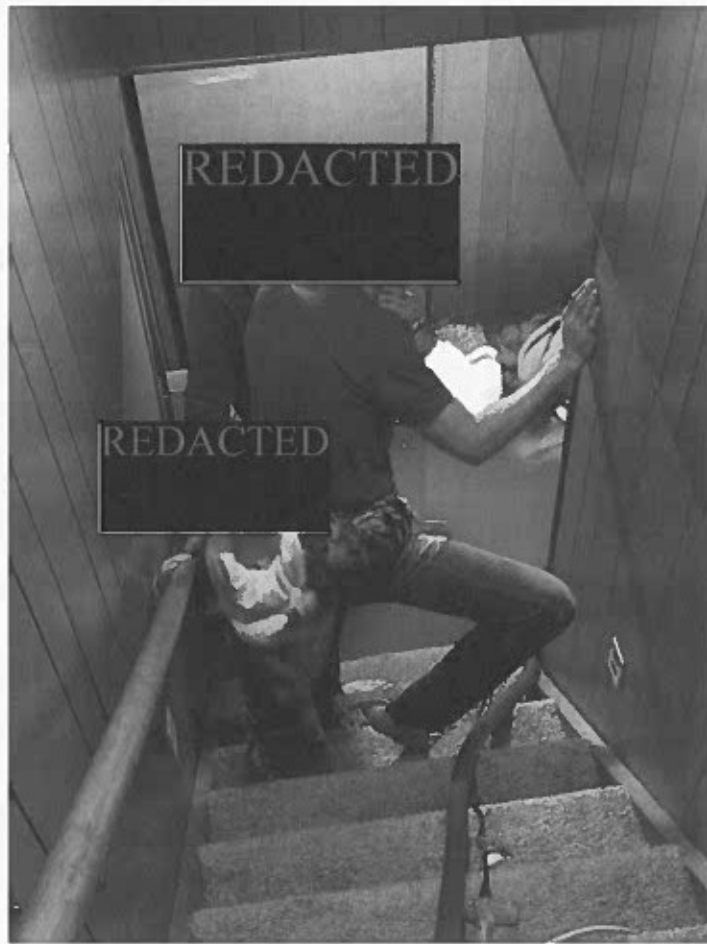


Photo # Lawrenceville SSO-004
Date: April 5, 2025
Time: Unknown
Taken By: Complainant
Facility: City of Lawrenceville
Location: [REDACTED]
Notes: Complainant pictures of
basement back up.



COMPLAINT FOLLOW UP DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH PHOTOCOPIES

Photo # Lawrenceville SSO-005
Date: April 5, 2025
Time: Unknown
Taken By: Complainant
Facility: City of Lawrenceville
Location: [REDACTED]
Notes: Complainant pictures of
basement back up.



Photo # Lawrenceville SSO-006
Date: April 5, 2025
Time: Unknown
Taken By: Complainant
Facility: City of Lawrenceville
Location: [REDACTED]
Notes: Complainant pictures of
basement back up.



COMPLAINT FOLLOW UP DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH PHOTOCOPIES

Photo # Lawrenceville SSO-007
Date: April 5, 2025
Time: Unknown
Taken By: Complainant
Facility: City of Lawrenceville
Location: [REDACTED]
Notes: Complainant pictures of
basement back up.

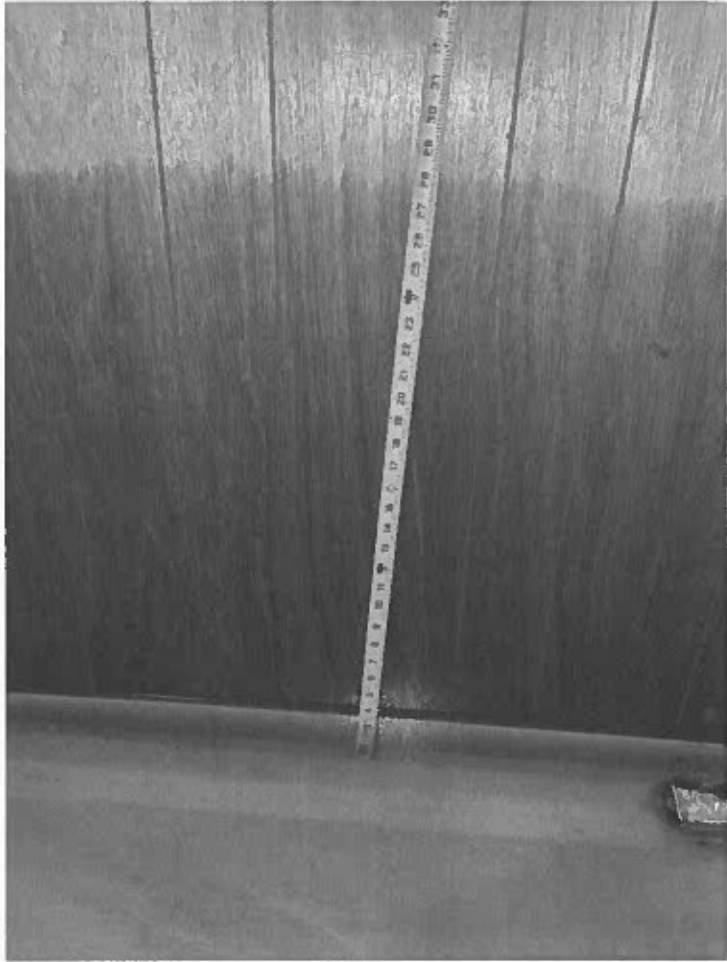


Photo # Lawrenceville SSO-008
Date: April 5, 2025
Time: Unknown
Taken By: Complainant
Facility: City of Lawrenceville
Location: [REDACTED]
Notes: Complainant pictures of
basement back up.

