THE PORT OF NEW YORK AUTHORITY
111 Eighth Avenue - at 15th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011

Planning and Development Department
Roger H. Gilman, Director

Hayden B. Johnson, Deputy Director Telephone 620-7725

November 18, 1971

Mr. Christian T. Hoffman, Jr.
Supervising Public Health Engineer
Water Pollution Control Program
New Jersey State Department of
Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 1540
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

At the meeting in the offices of the Interstate Sanitation Commission on October 4, it was agreed that we would submit to you, and to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Interstate Sanitation Commission, a list of all outfalls at Port Authority facilities which discharge into navigable waters. We have now developed such a list, a copy of which is enclosed for your information.

At the present time, we are analyzing each of the outfalls in detail to determine which may fall under the provisions of the Refuse Act of 1899. We expect, in the near future, to make application for the required permits to the Corps of Engineers for all such outfalls.

Sincerely,

Hayden B. Johnson, Coordinator
Office for Environmental Programs

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INVENTORY OF
WASTE WATER OUTFALLS
AT PORT OF NEW YORK AUTHORITY FACILITIES
DISCHARGING INTO
NAVIGABLE WATERS OR TRIBUTARIES

The Port of New York Authority
Office for Environmental Programs
November 1971

INTRODUCTION

In May 1970, the Office for Environmental Programs was created within the Planning and Development Department of The Port of New York Authority. The new office was set up primarily to coordinate the many different activities and programs carried out throughout all phases of the Port Authority's operations which have a bearing on environmental matters.

Early in 1971, primarily on the basis of a forthcoming program under which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would issue permits for various outfalls discharging into navigable waters or their tributaries, the Office for Environmental Programs requested the Port Authority's Inspection and Safety Division to prepare an inventory of all such outfalls at Port Authority facilities. A preliminary report on this subject was made in May and further data developed over the summer.

The material which follows discusses the matter of storm and sanitary sewage outfalls at each of our facilities. It also sets forth programs now under way or being planned to eliminate all sanitary sewage outfalls and to take action to prevent contaminants from entering the storm sewer systems at each facility.

New Jersey

Hoboken Port Authority Marine Terminal

All sanitary sewage at the Hoboken piers is discharged into the municipal sewer system.

A separate storm sewer system discharges into the Hudson River.

Elizabeth Port Authority Marine Terminal

All sanitary sewage from the buildings at Elizabeth Port Authority Marine Terminals is discharged into the municipal sewer system with the exception of Buildings Nos. 104 and 193, which are served by septic tanks and leaching fields. The leaching fields are currently being investigated to assure that they are functioning correctly and are of adequate size and design.

A separate storm sewer system discharges into the Elizabeth Channel and Newark Bay.

Port Newark - Port Authority Marine Terminal

Sanitary sewage from most of Port Newark is now discharged into a combination storm-sanitary sewer system which discharges into Newark Bay and/or the Newark Channel at the rate of 100,000 gallons per day from various outfalls. A project for new sanitary sewers to divert all sanitary sewage presently discharged from the north side of Port Newark to the Doremus Avenue interceptor main is scheduled for completion by the end of 1971.

On the south side of Port Newark, contract documents are being prepared for an interceptor main which will receive sanitary sewage from all buildings on the south side of Newark Channel, including some sewage from various commercial uses. The project is scheduled for completion in the latter part of 1972.

When these projects are completed, only storm water will be discharged into the Newark Channel and Newark Bay through the storm sewer system.

PORT AUTHORITY TRANS HUDSON (PATH) SYSTEM

New Jersey and New York

All sanitary sewage from the PATH system is discharged into the various municipal sewer systems in the areas served by PATH.

There are two New Jersey outfalls and only one New York outfall in the PATH system. All three serve to discharge Hudson River water seepage back into the river.

PORT AUTHORITY TUNNELS AND BRIDGES

New York and New Jersey

George Washington Bridge

Storm water from the George Washington Bridge decks and roadways is discharged directly into the Hudson River. During winter months, some salt used for melting ice and snow is in the runoff. When the walls of the Bridge's tunnel approaches are washed, depending on soil accumulations, a small amount of water containing detergents and various automotive emission products deposited on walls from passing vehicles may also be discharged into the River. Detergents which are considered environmentally sound are specified for the washings.

All sanitary sewage from the toll booths and Administrative buildings is discharged into municipal sewer systems.

Goethals Bridge, Outerbridge Crossing and Bayonne Bridge

Storm water from the decks and roadways is discharged into various receiving bodies of water from these Bridges. During winter months, there is some salt, used for melting ice and snow, in the runoff.

The Goethals Bridge has its own package sewage treatment plant, with an estimated average daily discharge of 2,000 gallons a day. The plant's effluent is checked daily to determine its chlorine residual. Personnel operating the plant have had appropriate formal training, and a permit for the plant was obtained from the State of New York when operations began. Treated effluent from the plant is pumped into a drainage ditch which eventually reaches the Arthur Kill.

Sanitary sewage from the toll booths and administrative buildings at the Bayonne Bridge is discharged into the New York City municipal sewer system. At the Outerbridge Crossing two septic tanks on the New York side collect sanitary sewage from a field office and a garage. Plans are being developed to provide a package treatment plant at the Outerbridge Crossing similar to that currently operating at the Goethals Bridge.

Holland Tunnel

Storm water which accumulates on the Holland Tunnel roadways is pumped to both the New York and New Jersey shores and discharged directly into the Hudson River. This water may contain some detergents which are used for washing the tunnel walls as well as various automotive emission products deposited on walls from vehicles passing through the Tunnel. Detergents which are considered environmentally sound are specified for the washings.

The River Vent Buildings have toilets which discharge into the river, but the amount of these discharges is very small since there are no personnel routinely stationed in these buildings. The estimated gallons of sanitary sewage from the River Vent Buildings is approximately 150 gallons per day. The Authority is presently investigating the substitution of chemical toilets for water carriage toilets, as well as the feasibility of connecting the existing toilets to the City sewer system.

Lincoln Tunnel

Storm water which has accumulated on the Lincoln Tunnel roadways is pumped to the New York and New Jersey shores and discharged directly into the Hudson River. This water may contain some detergents used for washing the Tunnel walls as well as various automotive emission products

[redacted] Detergents which are considered environmentally sound are specified for the washings.

Sanitary wastes from the New York River Buildings are discharged into the Hudson River, and septic tank effluent from the New Jersey River Buildings is discharged into the River, although some of this may be absorbed by surrounding soil. The estimated gallons of sanitary sewage from each of the River Vent Buildings is approximately 150 gallons per day. The Authority is currently investigating the effectiveness of the leaching system, and studies are also under way to determine the most feasible means of discharging storm and waste water into the municipal sewage system.

Staff is also investigating the feasibility of discharging sanitary wastes from the New York River Building into the peripheral sewer now being constructed along the Hudson River waterfront by the City of New York.

New Jersey

Newark Airport

All sanitary sewage from the new terminal complex will discharge into the Newark city sewer system. Plans are currently being prepared for a collector system to carry sanitary wastes from the existing facilities north of Runway 11/29, including the maintenance base at the northeast corner of Newark Airport, into the city system. The sewage from these buildings, which amounts to approximately 1,200 gallons per day, is currently discharged into the peripheral ditch which in turn discharges into the head of the Port Newark Channel.

Most of the storm water at Newark Airport also runs off into the Peripheral Ditch. Recently, the water entering this ditch from off Airport sources was evaluated and found to be of a very low quality, composed of natural land runoff water, storm water, industrial waste water and sanitary waste water. The presence of both industrial and sanitary wastes was demonstrated by laboratory tests. This condition can only be corrected by joint action with other agencies. However, the Authority is studying several short-term methods of improving the quality of the water in the ditch as it flows through airport property, including the installation of aeration equipment to increase the digestion rate of the wastes and the use of absorbent materials to remove oily wastes from the water.

Teterboro Airport

Storm water runoff from runways and taxiways at Teterboro Airport is discharged into two drainage ditches. Both of them, labeled the East Riser and West Riser ditches, originate off the airport and flow through

the property, eventually reaching the Hackensack River. Both ditches are maintained by Bergen County and, according to county officials, contain only storm water from the surrounding areas.

All sanitary sewage from the Administrative Building and other buildings on the airport is discharged into the municipal sanitary sewage system.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

MEMO

TO Mr. Delgado

FROM Mr. Mikulka DATE January 12, 1972

SUBJECT Port Authority Marine Terminal - Newark

On December 29, I received the complaint of Mr. Alan Husak, Vice President of the Carter Auto Transport & Service Leasing Corporation, Elizabeth, concerning pollution of Newark Bay.

Mr. Husak's company has installed waste-treatment system to meet standards of the Joint Meeting Sewerage Authority. However, Mr. Husak claimed that other similar facilities in the Newark Port Authority Marine Terminal provided no treatment at all and discharged directly to Newark Bay via storm sewers. Thus, Mr. Husak's company is put at a financial disadvantage to its competitors.

This problem, however, goes well beyond that. All facilities located in the Port Authority Terminal in Newark discharge any and all effluents to the storm sewers, and thence to Newark Bay. This is a major pollution problem. The Port Authority has a proposed interceptor sewer in the works to divert all these discharges into the Passaic Valley System.

I recommend that everything possible be done to move the Port Authority to the earliest possible completion of this project.

The Port Authority man dealing with this problem is Stuart F. Millendorf, Assistant Coordinator For Environmental Programs, 212-620-7693.

Joseph Mikulka
Mechanical Environmental Engineer

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