

State of Florida



Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: February 13, 2015
TO: Carlotta Stauffer, Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk
FROM: Robert Graves, Engineering Specialist, Division of Engineering *REG*
RE: Docket No. 140060-WS - Application for increase in water and wastewater rates in Seminole County by Sanlando Utilities Corporation. *AV*

Please place the attached documents in the docket correspondence for Docket No. 140060-WS.

Thank you.

Good Evening, I am Alison Cody, Vice President of the Civic Association of West Lake Brantley. Residents of our neighborhood would like to protest this rate increase based on the following (which I have documentation of here):

This is a warning letter from the Florida DEP to Patrick Flynn of Sanlando Utilities citing unauthorized discharges of untreated wastewater on November 23rd and 29th last year. Close to 2 million gallons of water (as cited in this letter) drained into our community and into the Sweetwater Creek which flows into the Wekiva River.

When Sanlando Utilities was originally contacted by residents they adamantly denied that it came from their facility (which is the Hunt Club Waste Water Treatment Facility) and even told one homeowner that the flooding of water was because of the rose bushes she had planted. Your committee can see the time stamped conversations on our FB page [here](#) as residents tried to figure out what was going on.

Calls from our residents to the state and local DEP finally got their attention and after visiting the affected area they inspected the Hunt Club facility and drafted the warning letter that was first discussed.

Sanlando Utilities repeatedly says that this water is treated, however anyone who saw or smelled the flooding knows differently. **Here is a news article** from Central Florida News 13 which gives you an idea of what residents were dealing with. Some residents have reason to believe that this flooding has also created structural damage to their home. One neighbor has flood damage in the back interior of her home.

The last documentation I would like to present is from The Sludge Report which repeats much of what I have said above and also notates that the Sweetwater Creek (which runs through our neighborhood) does indeed flow into the Wekiva River.

I don't believe that the Sanlandos Utilities Corporation acts as a good neighbor and unfortunately they are doing harm to our community. They should not be allowed a rate increase until they remedy the current situation with their neighbors, which they have not. Can you imagine how overwhelming it would be to be wading in sewage water around your home with the responsible party not ever offering to lend a hand? They should also account for the pollution they are responsible for in the Wekiva.



**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**
CENTRAL DISTRICT
3319 MAGUIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 232
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32803

RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

CARLOS LOPEZ-CANERA
LT. GOVERNOR

CLIFFORD D. WILSON III
SECRETARY

December 3, 2014

Patrick Flynn, VP of Operations
Sanlando Utilities Corporation
200 Weathersfield Avenue
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
pcflynn@uiwater.com

Re: Warning Letter
Wekiva Hunt Club WWTF
DW FL0036251
Seminole County
SPCD-CAP-14-1521

Dear Mr. Flynn:

A reconnaissance and complaint inspection was conducted at your facility on December 2, 2014, under the authority of Section 403.091, Florida Statutes (F.S). During this inspection, possible violations of Chapter 403, F.S., Chapter 62-600, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), and Chapter 62-610, F.A.C. were observed.

During the inspection Department personnel noted the following:

- An unauthorized discharge to Sweetwater Creek of an estimated 750,000 gallons of untreated domestic wastewater occurred on November 23, 2014 due to a forcemain break.
- An unauthorized discharge to Sweetwater Creek of an estimated 1.0 million gallons of partially treated effluent occurred on November 29, 2014 due to a berm breach in rapid infiltration basin (RIB) #1.
- An unauthorized discharge from the decommissioned underdrain associated with RIB #'s 1 and 2 was observed. This discharge was flowing into the wetland between the facility and Sweetwater Creek.
- Department personnel observed daylighting of water originating from RIB #1.
- RIB #s 2, 3, and 4 are not being properly maintained.

Violations of Florida Statutes or administrative rules may result in liability for damages and restoration, and the judicial imposition of civil penalties, pursuant to Sections 403.121, Florida Statutes.

Sanlando Utilities Corporation; Facility ID No.: FL0036251
SPCD-CAP-14- 1521
Warning letter
Page 2 of 2
December 3, 2014

Please contact Daniel Hall of the Central District Office at 407-897-4167 or via e-mail at Daniel.K.Hall@dep.state.fl.us **immediately** upon of receipt of this Warning Letter to arrange a meeting to discuss this matter. The Department is interested in receiving any facts you may have that will assist in determining whether any violations have occurred. You may bring anyone with you to the meeting that you feel could help resolve this matter.

Please be advised that this Warning Letter is part of an agency investigation, preliminary to agency action in accordance with Section 120.57(5), Florida Statutes. We look forward to your cooperation in completing the investigation and resolving this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeff Prather".

For Jeff Prather, District Director
Central District
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

JP/lk/aw/ds/dkh

Enclosures: Inspection Report (with attachments)

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WASTEWATER COMPLIANCE INSPECTION REPORT

FACILITY AND INSPECTION INFORMATION

@ = Optional

Name and Physical Location of Facility	WAFR ID:	County	Entry Date/Time
Wekiva Hunt Club WWTF	FL0036251	Seminole	11/24/14 11:00
144 Ledbury Drive		Phone	@ Exit Date/Time
Longwood, FL 32779-4609			12/2 14 14:22

Name(s) of Field Representatives(s)	Title	Phone
Scott Gosnell	Lead Operator	

Name and Address of Permittee or Designated Representative	Title	Phone	@ Operator Certification #
Patrick Flynn	VP of Operations		
Sanlando Utilities Corporation			
200 Weathersfield Avenue	Email		
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714-4027			

Inspection Type	R I C I	Samples Taken(Y/N): N	@ Sample ID#: N/A	Samples Split (Y/N): N/A
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	Were Photos Taken(Y/N): Y	@ Log book Volume: II dkh	@ Page: 452
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FACILITY COMPLIANCE AREAS EVALUATED

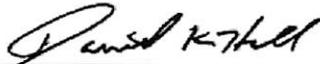
IC: In Compliance; MC: Minor Out of Compliance; NC: Out of Compliance SC: Significant Non-Compliance;
NA: Not Applicable; NE or Blank: Not Evaluated

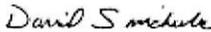
Significant Non-Compliance Criteria Should be Reviewed When Out of Compliance Ratings Are Given in Areas Marked by a "♦"

	PERMITS/ORDERS		SELF MONITORING PROGRAM		FACILITY OPERATIONS		EFFLUENT/DISPOSAL
IC	1. ♦ Permit	NE	3. Laboratory	MC	6. Facility Site Review	NE	9. ♦ Effluent Quality
NE	2. ♦ Compliance Schedules	NE	4. Sampling	NE	7. Flow Measurement	SC	10. ♦ Effluent Disposal
		IC	5. ♦ Records & Reports	SC	8. ♦ Operation & Maintenance	NE	11. Biosolids/Sludge
						NE	12. Ground Water
NC	14. Other:					MC	13. ♦ SSO Survey

Facility and/or Order Compliance Status: <input type="checkbox"/> In-Compliance <input type="checkbox"/> Out-Of-Compliance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant-Out-Of-Compliance

Recommended Actions: Warning Letter
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Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s)	District Office/Phone Number	Date
Daniel K. Hall 	Central District Office 407-897-4167	December 3, 2014

David Smicherko 	Central District Office 407-897-4169	December 3, 2014
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@ Signature of Reviewer	District Office/Phone Number	Date
	Central District Office 407-897-8963	December 3, 2014

Single Event Violation Code(s): UNBP _____
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Facility Name: Wekiva Hunt Club WWTF
Inspection Date: December 2, 2014

Facility Name: Wekiva Hunt Club WWTF
Facility ID No: FL0036251
Inspection Type: CI/RI
Inspection Date: 12/2/2014 14:22

FACILITY BACKGROUND:

Facility Address: 144 Ledbury Drive, Longwood, FL 32779, Seminole County

Program/ Permit Information: DW, Wastewater Permit issued: 3/31/2011, and expires: 3/30/2016

Treatment Summary: Wastewater treatment facility consisting of three contiguous package plants connected in parallel with manual influent screenings, aeration, clarification, chemical feed facilities, disinfection by chlorination, tertiary filtration, dechlorination, and aerobic digestion of residuals.

Permitted Capacity: 2.90 MGD

1. **Permit:** RATING - IN COMPLIANCE

1.1. **Observation:** Please see specific comment.

Additional Comments: Permit No. FL0036251 was issued March 31, 2011 and will expire March 30, 2016.

2. **Compliance Schedules:** RATING - NOT EVALUATED

3. **Laboratory:** RATING - NOT EVALUATED

4. **Sampling:** RATING - NOT EVALUATED

5. **Records and Reports:** RATING - IN COMPLIANCE

5.1. **Observation:** Please see specific comment.

Additional Comments: On November 30, 2014, at 16:48, the facility reported a collapse of RIB #1 berm to the Department via e-mail discharging an estimated 1.0 million gallons of partially treated wastewater. The collapse was reported to have occurred on November 29, 2014 at approximately 20:00. The facility also reported the incident to the State Watch Office (SWO) on November 20, 2014 at 16:50, report #2014-8238. The SWO report errantly notes the incident as occurring at the report time.

Please Note: A more efficient and paperless alternative to reporting discharge and groundwater monitoring data is available at <http://www.edmr.dep.state.fl.us>.

6. **Facility Site Review:** RATING - MINOR OUT OF COMPLIANCE

6.1. **Observation:** *Filters* - Please see specific comment.

Additional Comments: During inspection of the facility it was noted that the filters were in a state of overflow but the excess water was being handled by the system as designed; the overflow was being directed to RIB #3 & #4. The operator stated that this overflow condition has been occurring since September 2014 in conjunction with a heavy rain even and Woodlands Des Pinar WWTF (FLA011080) going off line and flow subsequently being redirected to Wekiva Hunt Club.

7. **Flow Measurement:** RATING - NOT EVALUATED

8. **Operation and Maintenance:** RATING - SIGNIFICANT OUT OF COMPLIANCE

8.1. **Deficiency Description:** On November 23, 2014, the facility discharged an estimated 750,000 gallons of untreated domestic wastewater due to a forcemain break onto facility grounds. The discharge flowed north through a wetlands and into Sweetwater Creek.

Permit/Rule or Other Reference: Statute 403.088(1) No person, without written authorization of the department, shall discharge into waters within the state any waste which, by itself or in combination with the wastes of other sources, reduce the quality of the receiving waters below the classification established for them.

Recommendations for Corrective Action: The broken forcemain has been repaired, no further actions are necessary at this time.

Facility Name: Wekiva Hunt Club WWTF

Inspection Date: December 2, 2014

9. **Effluent Quality:** RATING - NOT EVALUATED

10. **Effluent Disposal:** RATING - SIGNIFICANT OUT OF COMPLIANCE

- 10.1. **Deficiency Description:** Evidence of a bypass or failure from the storage ponds was observed during the inspection. Specifically, the facility was still in the process of repairing the berm to RIB #1, a large quantity of sand from the washed out berm was evident on the north side of the facility in and around the offices.

RIB #1 holds an estimated 1.0 million gallons of effluent all of which drained out to the facility grounds, towards, and into Sweetwater Creek.

Permit/Rule or Other Reference: Statute 403.088(1) No person, without written authorization of the department, shall discharge into waters within the state any waste which, by itself or in combination with the wastes of other sources, reduce the quality of the receiving waters below the classification established for them.

Recommendations for Corrective Action: Conduct an engineering evaluation of all pond berms to determine if the ponds can contain and process effluent properly given current loading rates.

- 10.2. **Deficiency Description:** During the inspection it was noted that water was continuing to emerge from below ground just north of the repaired berm for RIB #1. This was previously noted during the Department's inspection of the facility on July 9, 2014 and a complaint inspection October 9, 2014. At the July inspection, facility staff indicated that RIB #1 only contained stormwater and was not being loaded due to the leaching. The July report errantly notes the leaching to be occurring on the south side of the berm, the leaching was occurring on the northeast side. During the October inspection RIB #1 was said to contain a mix of effluent and stormwater.

Additionally, the old underdrain for RIB #1 and #2 was discharging from the manhole just north of RIB #1. The underdrain discharge point to the river was previously capped but the manhole was not sealed allowing thousands of gallons per day of discharge from RIB #1 and #2. The underdrain discharge was also noted during the October 9 complaint visit.

Permit/Rule or Other Reference: Chapter 62-600.740(2) The following acts and the causing thereof are prohibited. (c) The failure to maintain equipment in a condition which will enable the intended function.

Recommendations for Corrective Action: Properly repair RIB #1 to preclude daylighting of effluent.

- 10.3. **Deficiency Description:** RIB #'s 2, 3 and 4 are not being allowed to dry out between rest cycles.

Permit/Rule or Other Reference: Chapter 62-610.523(4) Hydraulic loading and resting cycles shall be developed so as to restore operating percolation rates of the pond system to design levels by the end of the resting period. Hydraulic loading periods of 1-7 days with resting periods of 5-14 days to dry the cell bottoms and enable scarification or removal of deposited solids are required.

Recommendations for Corrective Action: Decrease loading rates of the RIBs to allow the RIBs to dry out between loading cycles.

- 10.4. **Observation:** Please see specific comment.

Additional Comments: During inspection facility staff Stated that the RIBs are being loaded at an estimate 250,000 gallons per day due to filter overflows.

- 10.5. **Observation:** Please see specific comment.

Additional Comments: During inspection, facility staff reported that while RIB #1 was not loaded due to the leaching to facility grounds they did load RIB #2 and that it was known that the berm separating the two RIBs allowed flow from #2 into #1. RIB #1 was holding an unknown quantity of water from the leaching through from #2, staff did note the area where the lateral flow was occurring through the berm separating #1 from #2.

11. **Biosolids/Sludge:** RATING - NOT EVALUATED

12. **Groundwater Quality:** RATING - NOT EVALUATED

13. **SSO Survey:** RATING - MINOR OUT OF COMPLIANCE

- 13.1. **Observation:** Please see specific comment.

Additional Comments: Facility staff noted that after significant rain events they see high flow for two to three weeks before the plant settles down again.

Facility Name: Wekiva Hunt Club WWTF

Inspection Date: December 2, 2014

14. Other: RATING - OUT OF COMPLIANCE

14.1. Observation: On December 2, 2014 the Department received complaints from residents at 2671 and 2661 Azalea Drive in Longwood. Both complainants stated that their front yards were saturated with water to the point of actively flowing off of their properties and into the street.

Department staff visited the properties and found standing water in front yards and over sidewalks. The storm gutters along the shoulder of the road were near completely full of rapidly moving water. 2661 specifically had sheet flow across the entire expanse of driveway. The driveway of 2671 had a blanket of orange algae growth below the water surface that were actively producing bubbles. Areas of stagnant water over sidewalks also showed algae growth.

The Department previously visited 2661 Azalea October 9, 2014 for a resident complaint that the RIBs were causing flooding in her back yard. The inspector did observe standing water (primarily the submerged decorative pond) but also noted that this was a low area and there had been recent heavy rains.

Azalea Drive runs east and west along the south side of RIB #'s 3 and 4. The complainant's residences back-up to the south side of RIB #4 specifically which stand 6 to 8 feet above their yards. The back yard of 2671 was dry at the surface but the resident stated that digging down a couple of feet would cause water to pool. The back yard of 2661 showed standing water in low points and a decorative pond that had overflowed its intended banks.

The water primarily affects residents at 2681, 2671, and 2661. Other homes on the north side of Azalea (backing up to the RIBs) front yards did appear wet but were not out-flowing. Properties on the south side of Azalea did not appear wet. The last significant rainfall was 7 days prior to the Department's visit.

Robin Iaconetti Faro

December 1 at 11:57am · Wekiva Springs, FL

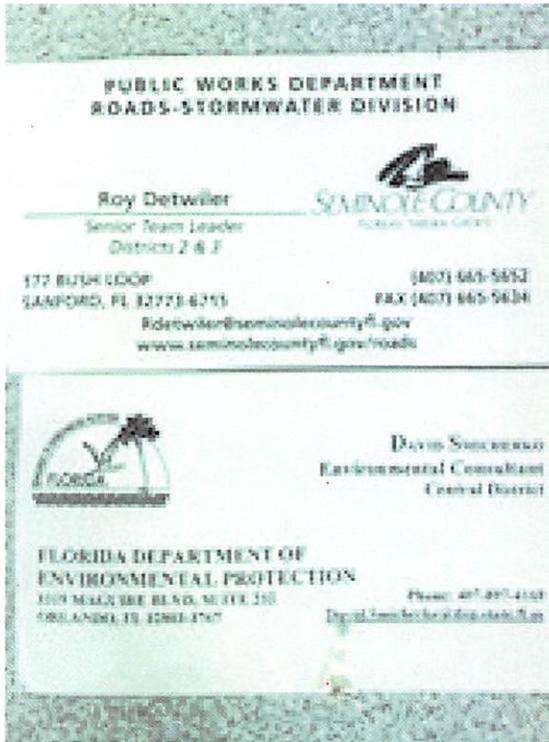
I'm hoping someone in the neighborhood can give me some advice.

I live on Azalea Dr and my property backs up to the water treatment facility. Recently, when it rains, I have water steadily running down my driveway for days. My yard is completely flooded. Is this normal for this area? We have only lived in this home for a year but my neighbors are saying they have never had this happen before this year. It last rained on Tue or We'd and I still have a flooded yard and a steady stream of water coming down my driveway.

I suspect this has something to do with the treatment facility right behind my house. Is there anything I can do?



Robin Iaconetti Faro I have spoken to both of these men and they visited mine and my neighbor's property about a month ago. They guy from Seminole county said there was nothing they could do; he said it was ground water. The guy from the DEP said this was a fluke and only happens once in a long while and that it was normal



Michelle Stella Another neighbor is having this issue. She was told that landscaping her property caused the flooding from their facility.

I'm at the end of the road and it smells. My property is dry, but I drive past the drenched properties (plural) everyday. It's a constant thing, not a fluke.

They were working in the field back there yesterday - on a Sunday.

December 1 at 12:25pm · Edited · Like



Robin Iaconetti Faro Michelle Stella, do you know who told her it was her landscaping? I have no landscaping in my backyard.

December 1 at 12:26pm · Like



Michelle Stella I will find out. She's been going crazy trying to fix this.

All she did was plant rose bushes on land she leveled.

December 1 at 12:27pm · Like



Robin Iaconetti Faro Michelle Stella, do you know if this has been an ongoing issue or is it recent?

December 1 at 12:30pm · Like



Michelle Stella I first noticed it after the bad rains we had recently. Looked like a waterfall coming down driveways.

After it kept running into the street well after the rains were gone, it was obvious that it wasn't rain-related. The neighbor said her house interior was affected, too. I have to contact her for more information regarding dates and with whom she spoke.

I've been here almost 4 years and this is the first time I've seen something like this.

December 1 at 12:39pm · Like



Robin Iaconetti Faro This first time this happened for us was late September/early October.

December 1 at 12:44pm · Like



Sharon Sabo Chamness I have a contact "in the biz" and his first response was if local DEP is not responding, call Tallahassee, State DEP office and tell them you believe a wastewater treatment plant is possibly discharging effluent onto your property and that of your surrounding neighbors and that the plant, county and local DEP all are not responding to your calls for help. When we have time later today we are going to look at google earth and look at the location of your property to the equipment at the various plants behind you to see if we can provide further help.

December 1 at 2:06pm · Unlike · 4



Sharon Sabo Chamness We drove by there earlier today and he agrees that something is not right.

December 1 at 2:06pm · Like · 2



Robin Iaconetti Faro Thanks **Sharon Sabo Chamness**, I will call now.

December 1 at 2:14pm · Like · 1



Robin Iaconetti Faro Just spoke to DEP and they are currently investigating them for something similar on the other side of the plant and will now start investigating this. A representative will be out tomorrow to look at our property.

December 1 at 2:45pm · Edited · Unlike · 6



Sharon Sabo Chamness Great news!!! This was from Tallahassee??

December 1 at 2:41pm · Like · 1



Robin Iaconetti Faro The sent me back to the local office.

December 1 at 2:44pm · Like



Sharon Sabo Chamness At least you got a reply from them this time!

December 1 at 2:45pm · Like · 1



Robin Iaconetti Faro Yes! I hope to get this resolved soon since all of us are on septic.

December 1 at 2:47pm · Edited · Like · 2



Robin Iaconetti Faro Michelle Stella, you might want to tell your neighbor to call the DEP as well. The # is 407-897-4100 the more complaints, the better.

December 1 at 2:57pm · Unlike · 2



Michelle Stella She's calling now to have them visit her property as well. Thanks again, Ladies!

December 1 at 3:39pm · Unlike · 1



Kristine Buono Osborne Just drove by this area this morning and cannot believe how bad the flooding is....I'm so sorry you guys are dealing with this! It HAS to be the water plant!!

December 2 at 9:48am · Like · 2



Kristine Buono Osborne Is there a retention pond behind your house? My husband was concerned that this water would effect the foundation of the houses and kill the vegetation as well because the roots are saturated. This is serious someone has to take ownership of this problem!

December 2 at 9:57am · Like · 3



Robin Iaconetti Faro There are 3 holding ponds on their property and they told me they rotate usage. I'm very concerned about my foundation. My driveway has cracks and my front stoop is sliding away from my house. It's ridiculous. I'm determined to get relief for my damages!

December 2 at 10:08am · Like · 3



Robin Iaconetti Faro Not to mention, we are on septic and my drain field has been saturated for a week now...

December 2 at 10:10am · Edited · Like · 3



Robin Iaconetti Faro The department of environmental protection is coming out today. I want to see what they say before I take this "public" lol.

December 2 at 10:13am · Like · 1



Kristine Buono Osborne Agreed! But I wouldn't hesitate to take it public if nothing continues to happen! Keep us posted!

December 2 at 10:14am · Like



Michelle Stella Need to find out which properties are affected on the other side of the facility and get together with those folks, too.

December 2 at 10:14am · Unlike · 3



Sharon Sabo Chamness I was going to suggest the news stations too...but agree you should wait to see what happens today. Keep us posted.

December 2 at 10:52am · [Like](#)



Robin Iaconetti Faro A Seminole County truck just crept down my street checking out the water situation...hmm

December 2 at 12:10pm · [Unlike](#) · 4



Robin Iaconetti Faro The DEP just left and they said something was definitely not right at the plant. They are heading over there right now.

December 2 at 1:30pm · Edited · [Unlike](#) · 3



Krista Wamhoff Yeah... Keep a journal. You might need it later.

December 2 at 1:31pm · Edited · [Like](#) · 2



Robin Iaconetti Faro They said it is most likely coming from one of their 3 ponds and that the water in no way should be draining through our properties.

December 2 at 1:32pm · [Like](#) · 1



Kristine Buono Osborne Yes! Document everything! That's exactly what my husband said about the retention ponds!!

December 2 at 1:33pm · [Like](#) · 2



Krista Wamhoff Now you might want to find a lawyer...

December 2 at 1:33pm · [Unlike](#) · 3



Robin Iaconetti Faro **Krista Wamhoff**, thanks to one of our neighbors, I got a number for an attorney that deals with these types of things.

December 2 at 1:37pm · [Unlike](#) · 4



Sharon Sabo Chamness I know you've been doing some video, but possibly keeping a video journal as well as written. I would also fill a gallon jug with the water as a sample. You will want to keep it sealed and cool, but not in the fridge (yuck!) That way you will have a sample of WHAT is flowing across your property as well in case it is hazardous.

December 2 at 1:44pm · [Unlike](#) · 5



Robin Iaconetti Faro I actually have some sterile sample cups from when I was prego. Lol. I could save a sample in my garage fridge great advice.

December 2 at 1:47pm · [Like](#) · 2



Michelle Stella Would you mind checking with Ila about collecting a sample too? Her lanai has standing water in it.

December 2 at 1:49pm · [Like](#) · 1



Krista Wamhoff Maybe in a Double Ziploc and in the freezer.

December 2 at 1:49pm · Like · 1



Michelle Stella The big vacant yellow house across the street looks like it's being washed away downhill. The soil is disappearing and the in-ground pool isn't in-ground anymore Exterior walls looks like they're cracking.

No clue if related, but worth a mention as its in the direction of the flow of water.

December 2 at 2:27pm · Like · 1



Krista Wamhoff Robin... Just spoke to Ila.. She is going to call tomorrow morning. Anyone have phone numbers I can give her. She says she has a pond in her back yard

Longwood residents want sewage removed from neighborhood



By Jeff Allen, Seminole County Reporter

Last Updated: Tuesday, December 09, 2014, 7:17 PM

LONGWOOD --

Ila Marsh says the soggy, dirty mess in and around her home has gotten so bad, she might have to temporarily move out and stay with relatives.

"It's shocking. I'm going to leave tomorrow morning, maybe the next morning – but I don't know if I can last that long," said Marsh.

Homeowners along [Azalea Drive](#) near Lake Brantley Drive said they've been dealing with what appears to be sewage running on to their properties.

After [News 13 first looked into the problem Dec. 3](#), officials with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection said they've been meeting with the owners and operators of the nearby Wekiva Hunt Club Wastewater Treatment Facility. The DEP said the facility's filters failed recently, which forced operators to release more water into their ponds. They said the failure, in conjunction with rain, rose the water table in the area.

A spokesperson for Sanlando Utilities told News 13 last week that any runoff was treated water and any sewage showing up anywhere would have to be coming from people's septic tanks.

However, residents told News 13 they believe their septic tank problems are direct result of the water runoff from the plant.

State health officials said they're hoping the plant's operators will clean up the mess and are waiting on the results of an investigation by DEP. They are advising residents to clean up what they can using bleach.

Residents we spoke with said it's too big of a job for them to clean up completely.

Marsh said she believes whatever is in the dirty water around her home is making her sick. She said she has not been feeling well the last few days.

"There's no doubt about that. It's just finally gotten ahold of me," said Marsh.

That's why the 86-year-old said she's leaving the home she's lived in for decades, at least for a while.

State environmental officials said operators of the wastewater treatment plant are lowering the water levels of the plant's ponds.

A plant spokesperson told News 13 Tuesday this will help alleviate the ground pressure issues in the septic fields of the homes near the plant. The plant spokesperson also said plant operators are in constant communication with DEP, which is closely monitoring all actions by the plant.

A state health official told News 13 he hopes to meet face-to-face with plant operators as early as Wednesday to talk about what can be done to clean up the neighborhood near the plant.

projects that are considered part of Amendment One spending possibilities. Audio of the meeting is also available: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/Show/EP/Audio/2736>

Senator Charlie Dean has announced a website has been created to allow citizens to monitor the activities of the Environmental Protection and Conservation Committee which has been given the responsibility to create legislation to implement Amendment One and the spending priorities. The link to this website is <http://www.flsenate.gov/media/topics/wlc>. Open the link and take advantage of this opportunity to make your voice heard! If you listen to the audio, you will already hear the rumblings about septic systems and the objections of those who mistakenly thought this amendment was all about buying conservation land.

"Good intentions without proper administration can undermine even the most noble of goals." *E.J. Dionne*

MORE NEWS

"Dirty water inundates Seminole neighborhood, wastewater plant blamed."

Excerpts from an article by Jeff Allen, Seminole County Reporter, Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Residents in a **Seminole County** neighborhood near Lake Brantley have developed a daily ritual that includes digging trenches and shoveling what they believe is sewage off their front sidewalks and driveways.

Residents along Azalea Drive said there's been a nonstop flow of wastewater on their properties, and they believe it's coming from a wastewater treatment plant right behind their homes.

"We can't let our kids play outside, it's flooding our streets, we can't mow our grass," said resident Cristine Faiello.

Residents said the water began to really build up after last weeks' heavy rain. But they say they've never had problems like this.

"Even through the hurricanes the water will dry up after a couple of days, even after a lot of rain, but this is something we've never seen. A week later and we're still draining water out of our yards," said longtime resident Jesse Hanson.

We asked the state Department of Environmental Protection about the problem. An official there said their inspectors have visited the area twice and they believe a berm on one of the wastewater facility's ponds failed, spilling water over into nearby properties.

In fact, those inspectors sent a warning letter to the owners of the treatment facility Wednesday. In the letter, DEP noted they found several possible violations at the Wekiva Hunt Club wastewater treatment facility, including when on Nov. 23 the plant discharged 750,000 gallons of untreated domestic wastewater into nearby Sweetwater Creek.

We also reached out to Sanlando Utilities Corporation, which operates the wastewater treatment plant. A spokesman there said the homeowners' problems are due to the recent rains in the area that caused the plant's pond water levels to rise, and that any runoff from the treatment plant is treated water and not contaminated.

DEP asked the owners and operators of the wastewater treatment facility to contact them immediately so that they can meet with them about how to fix the issues soon.

Editor's note: Our sources indicate authorities were contacted more than a year ago that the retention pond used by the treatment plant was over capacity. Nothing was done. Note above that on November 23, 2014, Sweetwater Creek received 750,000 gallons of untreated sewage - and that creek flows into the Wekiva River! Add to that the sewer line that broke last year in Altamonte Springs year dumping hundreds of thousands of gallons of raw sewage into the Little Wekiva River, also running into the Wekiva River, and the obsession with septic systems seems a little overblown. Perhaps the ecology of the Wekiva River will be well served if St. Johns Water Management District put their money into upgrading a sewer treatment plant they permit for operation instead of focusing on converting functioning septic systems to sewers.