COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF HENRICO

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
804.501.4517

Octover 28, 2026

Mr. Patrick Bishop
Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Environmental Quality
4949A Cox Road
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Sanitary Sewer Overflow
Gillie Creek SPS Forcemain
VPDES Permit No. VA0063690

Dear Mr. Bishop:

Henrico County Department of Public Utilities submits this five-day written report for three sanitary sewer overflows from the 24-inch force main serving the Gillies Creek Sewage Pumping Station, 2501 Jennie Scher Road. Each overflow was reported to DEQ within 24 hours. Because all three occurred on the same section of force main within four days, this letter covers all three.

The overflows followed the return of the station pumps to service on October 20, 2026, as part of ongoing improvements to the facility. All three occurred in the ravine between the railroad crossing and the end of Kemp Avenue. The Break 1 and Break 2 discharges reached Gillies Creek, a tributary of the James River.

Summary of Overflows

	Break 1	**Break 2**	**Break 3**
Discovered	Oct 23, 7:49 a.m.	Oct 26, about 10:44 a.m.	Oct 26, 9:35 p.m.
Station shut down	Oct 24, 7:45 a.m.	Oct 26, 12:25 p.m.	Oct 26, 9:35 p.m. (restarted 11:00 p.m. w/ no change in leak rate)
Discharge ended	Oct 24, about 11:00 a.m.	Oct 26, about 5:14 p.m.	Not observed; no leak at 10:44 a.m. on Oct 27
Estimated rate	About 650 gpm	About 2,500 gpm	About 10 gpm
Estimated volume	About 965,100 gallons	About 433,100 gallons	≤ 7,250 gallons
Reached Gillies Creek	Yes	Yes	None observed
Cause	Hole about the size of a golf ball in the bottom of the pipe	3-inch hole in the bottom of the pipe	Small leak about 50 ft from Break 2
Repair	24-inch wraparound clamp	24-inch wraparound sleeve	None needed; leak ceased and was not found

The three overflows total an estimated **1,405,450** gallons. Volumes are based on the observed leak rates while the pumps were running, plus one-quarter of those rates while the force main drained after each shutdown.

Response and Repairs
For each break, the station was shut down, and incoming flow was stored in the station's 4-million-gallon flow equalization basin. The County's Annual Contractor, G. L. Howard, Inc., cleared access to each site and repaired Breaks 1 and 2 with 24-inch wraparound sleeves.

Break 3 was found during the test run after the Break 2 repair. The next morning, the site was dry, and staff inspection found no leak. The Break 3 volume conservatively assumes the leak continued until 10:44 a.m.

Cleanup and Environmental Assessment
Beginning October 29, 2026, County staff will strip the affected soil, replace it with new topsoil, and apply lime to deodorize the area. Staff will check dissolved oxygen in Gillies Creek twice daily. They will also check for fish kills, odor, and water discoloration. Monitoring will continue until further assessment shows it is no longer necessary.

Corrective and Preventive Actions
1. Ramping the pumps up gradually when the station is returned to service, and monitoring the force main during startup.
2. Shutting down the station and using the basin's storage whenever a leak is close to the station's discharge rate.
3. Evaluating the condition of the force main, including the cause of the holes and possible surge pressures, to decide whether more repairs or partial replacements are needed.
4. Continuing to monitor the easement and Gillies Creek for signs of further breaks.
5. The next phase of facilities improvements under CIP includes the complete force main replacement.

Kind regards,

Nellow Simukonde, P.E.
DPU Operations Division Director

cc: Steve Yob, Bentley Chan, Alvin Christian, Nellow Simukonde, James Grandstaff, Bolman Bowles