

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

I join our residents in their frustration with the odor coming from the Waste Water Treatment Facility. For those who may not be aware, one of the digesters at the plant broke last year, which led to an increase in odor from what is typical since the plant began operations decades ago. This is due to the change in how the sewage at the facility is being processed.

The Town has explored all avenues to expedite the process, but unfortunately, we've been told by all contractors there's no way to speed it up. Fortunately, the repair for the digester is underway and based on the scope of the required repair, it is expected to take until May to be completed. In an effort to ensure proper cleaning and maintenance, we have put \$350,000 in next year's budget towards the second digester to prevent this situation from happening again.

WPCF has hired a company to assist with controlling the odor issues in the interim. Those attempts have proven to be effective but not perfect. Some days are worse than others. Wind direction and weather contribute to impacted areas surrounding the facility.

WPCF crews are fully engaged in addressing this issue and are aware of the impact on the neighborhoods because they work at the plant and are subject to the same odor, as well as our DPW, Fire Training School and Fairfield Animal Control staff, who also work in the area.

The Town hired an outside firm to perform testing to ensure there was no health risk from the increased odors. You can read more about these efforts [here](#), and more additional information on the testing [here](#). I want to assure residents while the digester repair is a major undertaking, the contractors are working as quickly as possible to have the repair completed by May.