



WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT
909 E. SPRAGUE AVENUE
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99202-2127
(509) 625-7900
FAX (509) 625-7940

DALE E. ARNOLD
DIRECTOR

July 17, 2006

Mr. Richard Koch
Water Quality Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
Environmental Quality Division
4601 North Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205-1295

RECEIVED
JUL 18 2006
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

Dear Mr. Koch:

This report is submitted giving written notification to Ecology that Wastewater Management has confirmed sewage leaking into the Spokane River from the sanitary sewer line downstream of CSO #6 located approximately ¼ mile east of the Riverside Water Reclamation Facility and as follow-up to the e-mail notification I received from you at approximately 1:30 pm, July 11, 2006.

On Tuesday afternoon, you notified us via e-mail that reports were in your office showing you pictures of sewage leaking into the river. Wastewater Management personnel responded and attempted to find the source of flow. Finding this source was challenging because the monitor located at the diversion structure in CSO #6 near Northwest Blvd. indicated no overflow from the weir and that indication was confirmed to be true based on field examination. After continued investigation, our crews found an eight inch line that discharges to the interceptor in Aubrey L. White Parkway to be partially plugged by debris. The crew used a sewer hydro cleaner to clean the blockage and normal flow was returned at 5:25 pm. This partial plug caused sewage to back up the line and be diverted to the river through the 24 inch CSO outfall pipe. We currently believe that the cause of overflow was debris washing down through the system as a result of recent severe weather patterns.

The actual time frame of this overflow is unknown. The estimated flow to the river between the time of your call and when we cleared the blockage is 7,000 gallons. For an extended estimation starting on Sunday, July 9 through Tuesday, July 11 and the approximate overflow was 52,920 gallons.

To prevent reoccurrence at this location, Wastewater Management personnel will completely separate the 8 inch line from the 24 inch overflow line to eliminate the possibility of this type of additional discharge. Additional monthly inspections will be put into place to check on the outfall structures along with our monthly sign checks. Please see attached drawings.

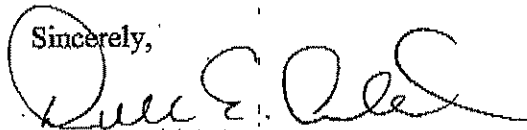
Mr. Richard Koch
Water Quality Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
Page 2 of 2

We will renew our efforts to inform the public, media and agencies about the CSO system and who to call if they think they see a CSO discharge. Clear communication to the City's Wastewater Management Department (625-7900) is one key to reducing time when dry weather events occur. In this regard, we will re-evaluate the number, placement, and physical attributes of the signage used to inform the public. In addition, we will participate with Ecology and the Spokane Regional Health District to draft a plan which will more consistently direct and coordinate actions when dry weather sewage discharge events occur.

If you have any questions or comments, please call me at (509) 625-7900.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Dale Arnold, Director
Wastewater Management

DA

Enclosures

- cc: Mayor Dennis Hession
- Jack Lynch, Deputy Mayor
- Dave Mandyke, Acting Director of Public Works & Utilities Operations
- Lloyd Brewer, Environmental Programs
- Jim Craven, City Attorney
- Bob Beaumier, Legal Department
- Gary Kaesemeyer, Supervisor – Wastewater Maintenance
- Lars Hendron, Principal Engineer – Wastewater Management
- Tim Pelton, Superintendent – RPWRF
- Chuck Meyers, Instrumentation & Data Supervisor – Wastewater Management
- Mike Schug, GIS Programmer Analyst – Wastewater Management
- Janet Davey – Wastewater Management Files

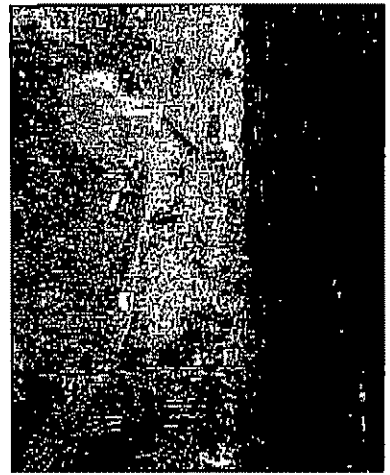
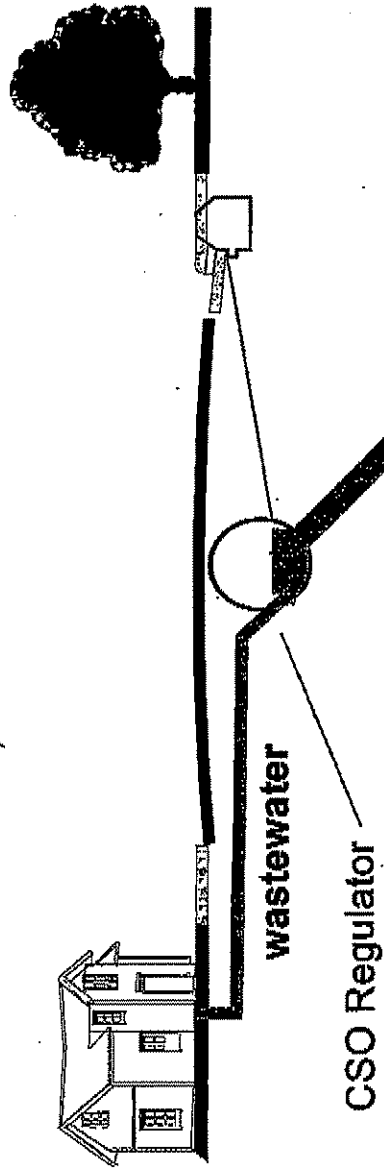
City of Spokane Combined Sewer System

Combined sewers carry both sanitary sewage and stormwater runoff together in the same pipe. This occurs because street inlets in many areas are connected to the sanitary sewers, a holdover from the early days when all sewage and storm runoff went directly to the river. Interceptor pipes were later built to convey dry weather flow to the City's treatment plant starting in 1958. Too much flow in the interceptors can cause surface flooding of sewage or could rupture the interceptors. During rainfall events when excessive amounts of stormwater enter the combined sewer system, the amount that would exceed the capacity of the interceptor pipe is diverted to the Spokane River. These diversion points in the collection system are called CSO Regulators. CSO regulators control flow rates to the interceptor system and also divert excess flows to the River. Most CSO regulators use leaping weirs, or openings in the bottom of the incoming sewer line where dry weather flow drops into the interceptor. In other cases, straight edge weirs or dams are used. In all cases, when the flow in an inlet line is above the threshold, the excess spills over into an overflow pipe to the River without treatment. These outfalls are allowed under the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Program (NPDES) Permit. Most overflow lines come from only one regulator, but in some cases more than one regulator may discharge to a common outfall. The drainage area contributing sanitary sewage and stormwater to a CSO regulator is called a CSO basin. Between 1980 and the early 1990s, the City reduced the volume of overflows by 86%. The City is working toward compliance with Ecology regulations that each outfall only overflow once a year on average. There are 23 CSO outfalls remaining as of 2005 and the City plans to eliminate some as work proceeds. In addition to the State regulations, EPA has issued the Nine Minimum Control strategies for combined sewer overflows. These policies are intended to ensure that the controls are cost effective and meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

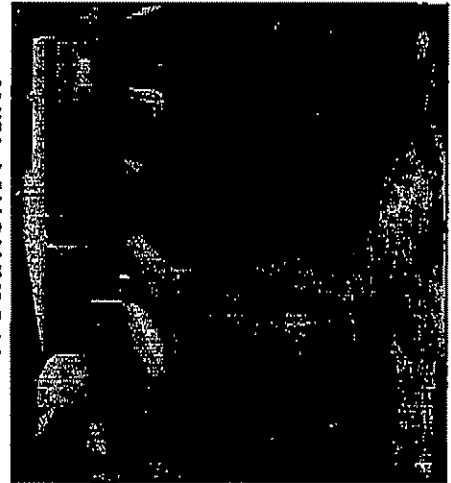
City of Spokane What is a Combined Sewer Overflow?



SPOKANE
Water Quality Improvement Program

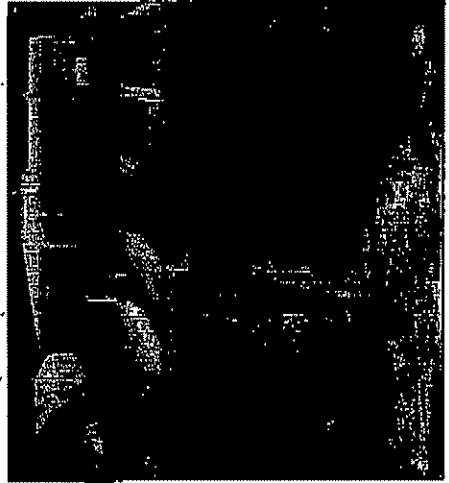
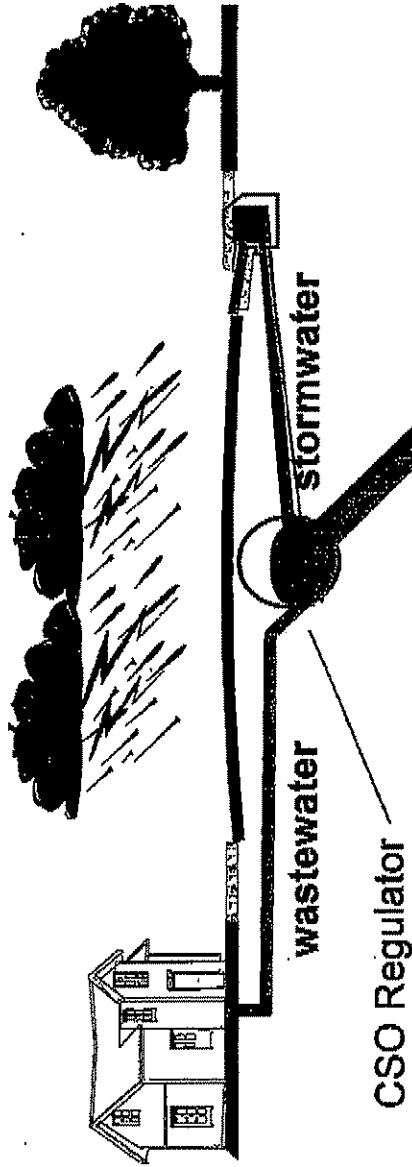


Dry Weather...
Sanitary flow to
treatment plant



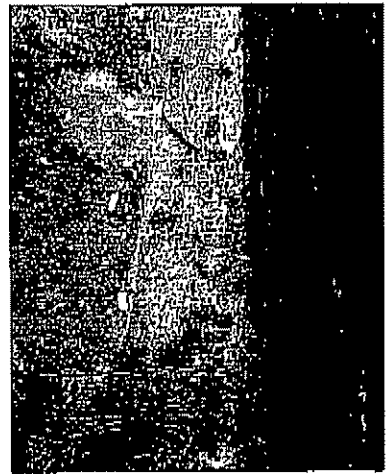
Treatment Plant

City of Spokane What is a Combined Sewer Overflow?



Small storm...

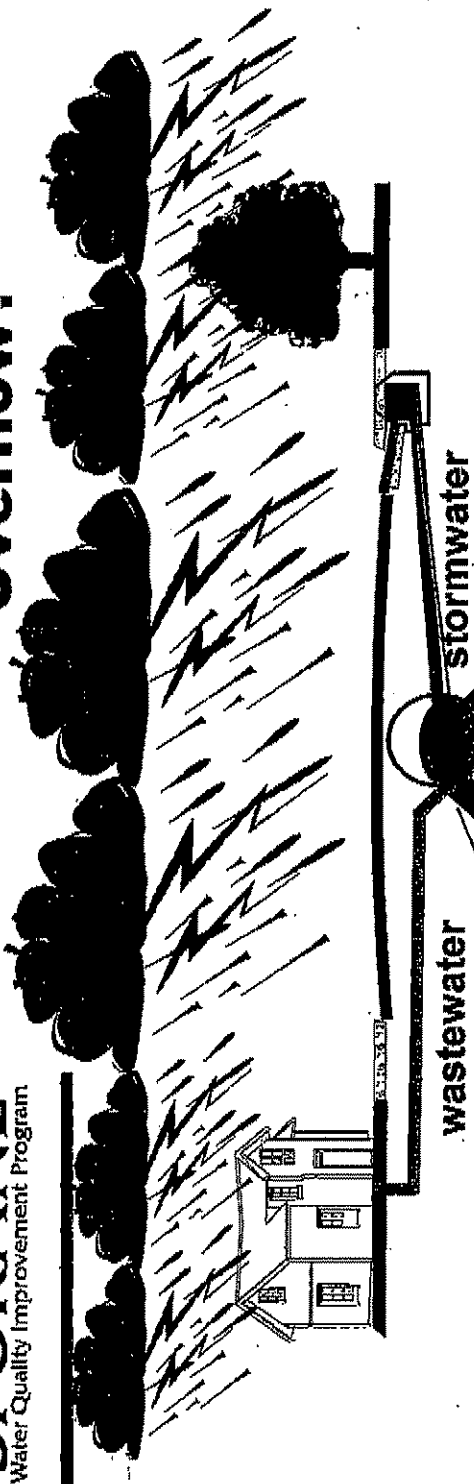
Storm water and
sanitary flow to
treatment plant



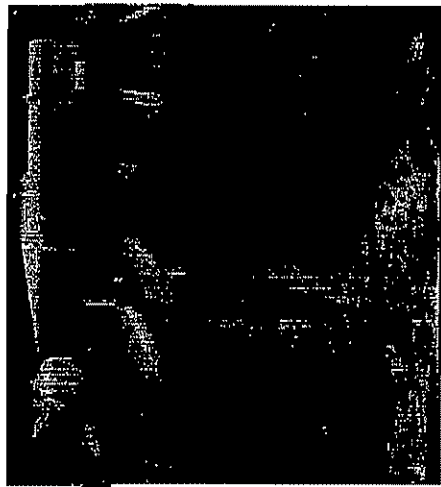


SPOKANE
Water Quality Improvement Program

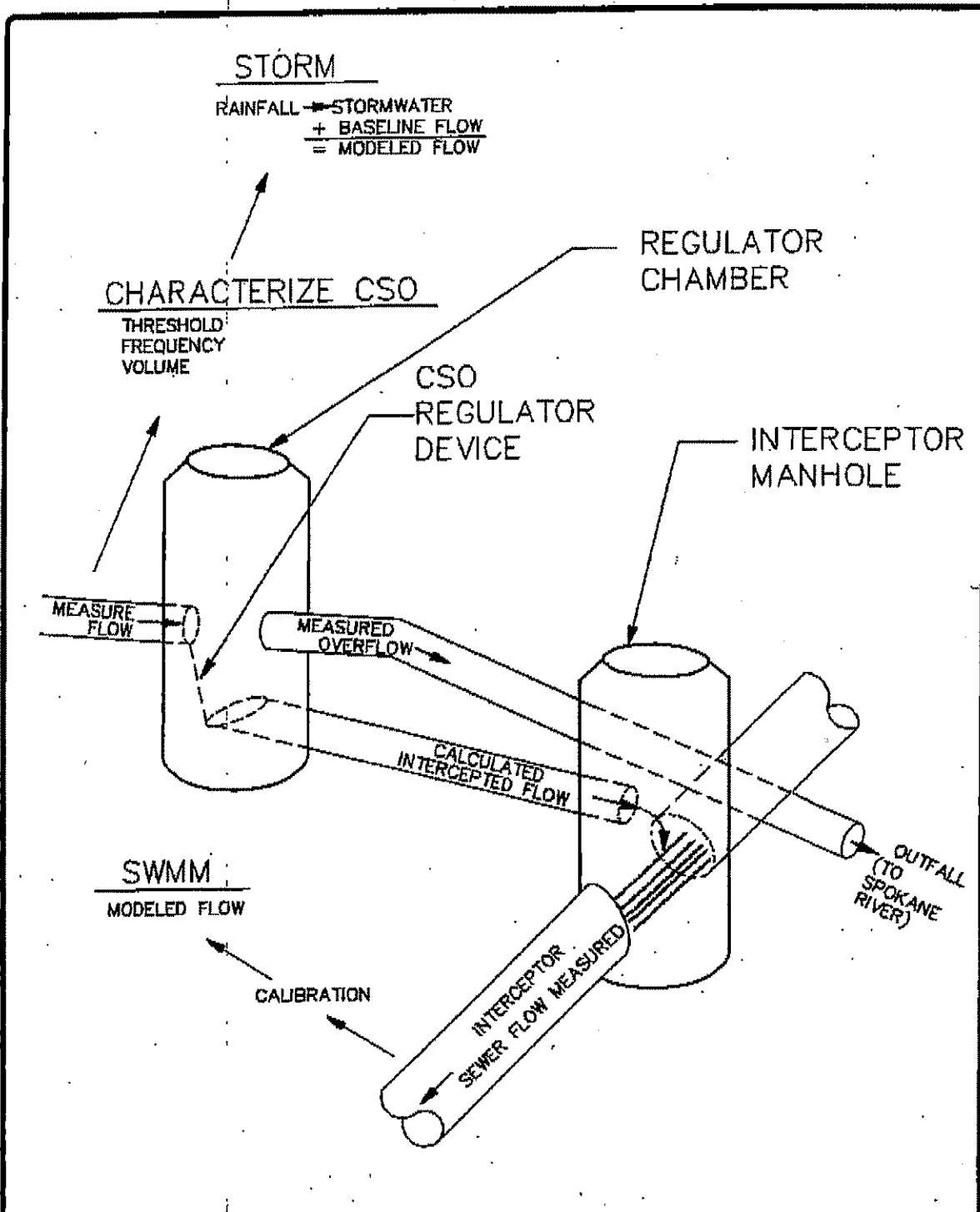
City of Spokane What is a Combined Sewer Overflow?



Large storm...
When combined flow exceeds the capacity of the pipe to the plant, excess goes to the river



Treatment Plant



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CITY OF SPOKANE
WASTEWATER
FACILITIES PLAN

Bovay Northwest Inc.
Engineers and Architects

CDM

FIGURE 1-3

RELATIONSHIP OF
MONITORED AND MODELED
FLOW

