

October 9, 2017

MAWSS reports rains and flooding cause Sanitary Sewer Overflows

MOBILE, Alabama — Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS) is experiencing Sanitary Sewer Overflows as a result of heavy rain and flooding. The waterways affected are Eslava Creek, Three Mile Creek and Dog River. A complete list of overflow locations and volumes will be provided.

MAWSS reports that its sewer system is designed to collect and convey wastewater to its wastewater treatment plant. During heavy rains, storm water infiltrates and inundates aging sewer lines causing manholes to overflow. Though highly diluted, the wastewater enters storm drains that lead directly to creeks and streams. MAWSS said it is currently pursuing capital projects to address wet weather overflows and rehabilitation of the sanitary sewer system.

Dr. Bernard H. Eichold II, Health Officer for the Mobile County Health Department, advises area residents to take precautions when coming into contact with any standing water that may have accumulated as a result of these overflows. Those who have come into direct contact with untreated sewage are advised to wash their hands and clothing thoroughly.

Area residents should take precautions when using Eslava Creek, Three Mile Creek and Dog River for recreational purposes because of the overflow. All seafood harvested in this general area should be thoroughly cooked before eating. People should wash hands after cleaning seafood and before preparing food.

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