

# To Report a Wastewater Emergency or Overflow in Rhode Island

Owners and operators of Rhode Island wastewater facilities (collection systems, pumping stations, treatment facilities, etc.) must immediately provide verbal reports of emergencies and/or bypasses to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), Office of Water Resources' Operations and Maintenance Section (O&M Section).

Between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM on business days, the O&M Section can be reached at 401-222-4700.

*When calling to report a wastewater emergency or bypass, it is required that you speak with a RIDEM staff member. DO NOT leave a recorded message.* If someone from the O&M Section is not available, press zero to speak with the receptionist; they will assist you with contacting an appropriate RIDEM staff member. If you call outside of business hours, the RIDEM emergency hotline (401-222-3070) must be contacted to report the incident.

Please note that in addition to an immediate verbal report, *an electronic report must be submitted to RIDEM through Net-SewerOverflow within five (5) calendar days of the event's discovery.*

## **What is NeT-SewerOverflow?**

NeT-SewerOverflow is a Web-based tool that allows RIPDES permittees and wastewater collection system owners to electronically sign and submit their written reports of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) to RIDEM via a secure internet connection. Electronic submission of these reports is *required* under the NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule and NeT-SewerOverflow is designed to meet this requirement and improve data quality and transparency.

## **Who Can Report in NeT-SewerOverflow?**

Owners and operators of wastewater facilities (collection systems, pumping stations, treatment facilities, etc.) that are required to submit written reports of SSOs and/or bypasses must use NeT-SewerOverflow to submit their reports electronically to RIDEM.

## **How Do I Get Started in NeT-SewerOverflow?**

- Individuals that have a Central Data Exchange (CDX) account should log into their CDX account and add the NeT-SewerOverflow eReporting tool as described on RIDEM's website. <https://dem.ri.gov/media/74216/download>
- Individuals that do not have an existing CDX account will need to register/create a one. <https://dem.ri.gov/media/74221/download>
- The first time you open NeT-SewerOverflow you will not see any wastewater facilities in your "My Facilities" section. You will need to request permission for your Facilities and be approved before submitting any reports. Your request can be approved by the Regulatory Authority (RIDEM) and CDX users with existing "Manage" permission for that Facility.  
<https://dem.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur861/files/2023-12/ripdes-request-access-to-permit-netseweroverflow.pdf>