

**Annual Report for Wastewater Treatment Works / Wastewater Collection System
Fiscal Year 2023-24**

I. General Information

Name of regulated entity:

Town of Carolina Beach

Responsible entity, person, or contact with phone number & address:

Name: William J. Raymond

Title: Wastewater Treatment Superintendent

Address: 404 S. Dow Road, Carolina Beach, NC

Phone: (910) 465-1946

Listing of applicable permits:

NPDES NC0023256 (ORC: William J. Raymond)

WWC WQCS00076 (ORC: Christopher D. Nichols)

Description of collection or treatment process:

The Town of Carolina Beach has fifteen lift stations in the collection system, 30 miles of 10" & 8" gravity sewer lines, 5 miles of force main lines, and a wastewater treatment facility that is permitted to discharge treated effluent into the Cape Fear River per NPDES Permit #NC0023256. Wastewater from the Town of Kure Beach and Fort Fisher is also treated by the Carolina Beach WWTP. The WWTP has a permitted flow of 3.0 million gallons per day (MGD) and consists of a mechanical bar screen, manual bar screen, mechanical grit removal, influent and effluent flow recorder & samplers, three extended aeration basins, dual clarifiers, aerobic digestion / dual sludge storage basins, dual equalization basins, three traveling bridge tertiary filters, gas chlorination / dechlorination system, chlorination / dechlorination contact chamber, dual outfall pipes, and dual emergency generators. The facility also produces residual biosolids from the treatment process that are composted. The Town of Carolina Beach used McGill Environmental Services for contract residual biosolids composting during the 2023 calendar year. The Town of Carolina Beach submitted the required Biosolids Annual Report for 2023 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality during the 2024 fiscal year. The town reported that a total of 352.02 dry metric tons were composted by McGill Environmental Services from the WWTP during the 2023 calendar year.

II. Performance

Text Summary System Performance for the 2024 fiscal year (beginning July 1, 2023):

The Town of Carolina Beach wastewater facility treated 332,141,000 gallons of wastewater during the 2024 fiscal year. The daily average flow treated during the 2024 fiscal year was 0.910 MGD, or 30.3 % of the 3.0 MGD treatment capacity. An annual effluent pollutant scan of 109 parameters is required three times during the five year permit cycle. One annual effluent pollutant scan was required during the 2024 fiscal year and was sampled on 5/6/2024.

The N.C. Division of Water Resources (DWR) conducted an inspection of the WWTP on 6/18/2024. The inspector reported that the facility is operating in compliance with the conditions and limitations of NPDES Permit No. NC0023256, is well maintained, and records were organized and complete. On 4/12/2024, both Regional Supervisors of the DWR-Wilmington Region invited the Division Director of N. C. DWR and the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality Assistant Secretary for Environment to the WWTP for a non-compliance visit. WWTP operations and supervision were complimented by the regulatory supervisors, and the visit exhibited the excellent cooperative working relationship the town has with our environmental regulators. In October, staff relocated our Effluent dechlorination points with the permission of DWR and the efforts greatly improved our disinfection efficiency. We also performed a complete rehabilitation of the Plant #2 aeration system during the winter of 2023-24. The system had operated without rehabilitation since 1997. The Plant #2 dissolved oxygen concentrations showed great improvement in the peak season of 2024 as a result of the improvements.

The Town of Carolina Beach collections system staff has made some repairs and improvements to areas that occasionally suffer tidal flooding. Staff assessed the condition of 33 manholes along Canal Drive and determined the extent of work to be conducted. All manholes received sealing compound on lid assembly, and new stainless fasteners with anti-seize coating. Large portion of manholes in low lying areas had drip pans installed as a secondary preventative measure to prevent infiltration.

List (by month) of the number and type of any violations of permit conditions, environmental regulations or environmental laws (i.e. date, type, permit limit violations, monitoring and reporting violations, (illegal) bypass of treatment facilities, sanitary sewer overflows and estimated total monthly volumes and locations of events in which more than 1000 gallons of waste reached surface waters), and describe corrective actions taken:

Permit Limit Violations

There were no reportable permit limit violations during the 2024 fiscal year:

Monitoring and Reporting Violations or Deficiencies

There were no reportable monitoring and reporting violations or deficiencies during the 2024 fiscal year.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows

There was one reportable sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) events during the 2024 fiscal year.

A secondary sewer force main originating from Sewage Pump Station #3 at 1399 Canal Drive was discovered to be leaking at 1201 Canal Drive on 12/01/2023 at 1350 pm. The cause of leak was quickly determined, and operational changes to pump station were made. The damaged secondary force main is permanently out of service.

Any known environmental impact of violations:

Approximately 500 gallons of untreated sewer was directed to surface waters via stormwater catch basin at 1201 Canal Drive.

III. Notification

Statement as to how users or customers have been provided access to the report:

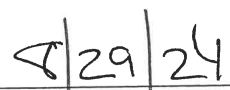
A public notice is placed in the local newspapers stating that copies of the annual report for the wastewater treatment plant and collection system are available upon request at the Town of Carolina Beach administration building. The report is also available on the town's website.

IV. Certification

I certify under penalty of law that this report is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further certify that this report has been made available to the users or customers of the named system and that those users have been notified of its availability.

Mark Meyer, Public Utilities Director, Town of Carolina Beach
Permittee (Name of permittee, Title, Entity)


Signature of Permittee


Date

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

NPDES Permit – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit is the regulatory agency document issued by a federal state agency designed to control all discharges of pollutants from point sources into U.S. waterways. NPDES permits regulate discharges into navigable waters from all point sources of pollution, including industries, municipal wastewater treatment plants, sanitary landfills; large agricultural feed lots and return irrigation flows.

Wastewater Collection (WWC) – The wastewater collection system is the permitted system of infrastructure (pump stations, force mains, gravity sewer lines) designed to convey wastewater to a wastewater treatment plant.

Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC) – The operator designated by the owner of the classified water pollution control system to be responsible for all operations of the system and to supervise all operators working in the system. The ORC must possess a valid certificate of the type and grade at least equivalent to the type and grade of the system.

Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) – The rate at which organisms use the oxygen in water or wastewater while stabilizing decomposable matter serves as food for the bacteria and energy results from its oxidation. BOD measurements are used as a measure of the organic strength of wastewater.

Total Suspended Solids (TSS) – TSS are solids that either float on the surface or are suspended in water, wastewater, or other liquids.

Total Residual Chlorine (Tot. Cl₂) – This is the amount of chlorine remaining after a given contact time. It is also the sum of the combined available residual chlorine and the free available residual chlorine.

pH – A liquid measurement range of acidity or basicity scaled from 0 to 14, with 0 being the most acidic, 14 being the most basic, and 7 being neutral. Natural water usually has a pH between 6.5 and 8.5. NPDES permits in N.C. do not ask for average pH values because pH is measured on a logarithmic scale and arithmetic or geometric means do not apply to the data. This is the reason only monthly maximum and minimum pH values are reported.

Dissolved Oxygen (DO) – Molecular (atmospheric) oxygen dissolved in water and wastewater.

Toxicity – This is a bioassay method of determining toxic effects of industrial or other wastes by using live organisms such as fish for test organisms. The town is required to use chronic toxicity testing to demonstrate that the effluent discharge shall at no time exhibit observable inhibition of reproduction or significant mortality to *Mysidopsis bahia* (mysid shrimps) at an effluent concentration of 17.9%.

Enterococci (ENTERO.) – Enterococci are indicator bacteria found in the feces of warm-blooded animals. The switch from fecal coliform to enterococci testing requirements on our discharge permit is a result of EPA studies which indicate enterococci to have a greater correlation with swimming-associated gastrointestinal illness than fecal coliform.

Ammonia Nitrogen (NH₃-N) – Biological processes reduce NH₃-N concentration. Concentration of NH₃-N has permit limits because of its direct relation to fish toxicity.

Total Nitrogen, Total Phosphorus (TOTAL NITR., TOTAL PHOS.) – Nitrogen and phosphorus are important nutrients in the reproduction of microorganisms necessary for biological treatment of waste. However, the concentrations of these two nutrients are monitored because excessive amounts of these nutrients in an effluent can affect the oxygen demand in a receiving stream and cause algal blooms.

Total Copper (TOTAL Cu) – The concentration of copper is monitored because the metal is a commonly found pollutant that has toxic effects on a receiving stream in excessive amounts. Copper is found in receiving waters as a result of both natural and anthropogenic sources.

Total Nickel (TOTAL Ni) – The concentration of nickel is monitored because the metal is a commonly found pollutant that has toxic effects on a receiving stream in excessive amounts. Nickel is found in receiving waters as a result of both natural and anthropogenic sources.

Total Silver (TOTAL Ag) – The concentration of silver is monitored because the metal is a commonly found pollutant that has toxic effects on a receiving stream in excessive amounts. Silver is found in receiving waters as a result of both natural and anthropogenic sources.

Chlorodibromomethane (CDBM) – CDBM is a compound in the trihalomethane group that is considered an environmental pollutant in excessive concentrations. Trihalomethanes are formed as a by-product of chlorination.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/L) – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100 mL) – These are the units designated to count the concentration of enterococci in a test sample.

PLANT PERFORMANCE FORM								
Plant Name: Carolina Beach Wastewater Facility								
YEAR	FLOW	BOD	BOD	TSS	TSS	Tot.CL2	DO	Temp.
2023/ 2024	OUT (MGD)	IN (ppm)	OUT (ppm)	IN (ppm)	OUT (ppm)	OUT (ppb)	OUT (ppm)	OUT (°C)
NPDES								
PERMIT	3.000	X X X	S / 5.0	X X X	30.0	50	5.00	X X X
LIMITS			W / 10.0					
JUL.	1.260	318	4	206	0.0	18	7.18	29.7
AUG.	1.314	271	2	192	0.0	15	7.78	29.9
SEPT.	1.289	217	2	146	0.3	17	7.80	27.8
OCT.	0.986	230	2	167	0.0	18	8.42	24.2
NOV.	0.647	240	2	174	0.0	17	9.25	20.9
DEC.	0.770	201	2	146	0.0	8	9.82	17.6
JAN.	0.709	246	2	170	0.0	10	10.11	16.0
FEB.	0.665	236	3	164	0.0	9	10.04	16.4
MAR.	0.791	233	3	180	0.0	13	9.31	18.7
APR.	0.791	258	3	194	0.0	13	8.85	21.4
MAY	0.802	292	4	200	0.0	15	8.20	25.3
JUN.	0.850	340	4	218	0.0	14	7.68	27.9
YEARLY								
AVG.	0.910	257	3	180	0.0	14	8.69	23.1
Permit required sample frequency								
Sample frequency - Daily: Tot. CL2, DO, pH, TEMP.								
2x/Week: BOD, TSS, ENTERO., NH3-N								
Monthly: TOTAL NITR., TOTAL PHOS., TOTAL CU								
Quarterly: CHRONIC TOX., CDBM, TOTAL Ni, TOTAL Ag								
* "S" represents the permitted summer months (April through October)								
* "W" represents the permitted winter months (November through March)								
NOTE: The N.C. Division of Water Resources considers all effluent total residual chlorine values reported below 50 ppb to be in compliance with the permit.								

PLANT PERFORMANCE FORM

Plant Name: Carolina Beach Wastewater Facility

YEAR	pH	ENTERO.	NH3-N	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	CDBM	TOXICITY
				NITR.	PHOS.	Cu	Ni	Ag		Mysidopsis
2023/ 2024	OUT (UNITS)	OUT (MPN/ 100 mL)	OUT (ppm)	OUT (ppm)	OUT (ppm)	OUT (ppb)	OUT (ppb)	OUT (ppb)	(ppb)	bahia OUT
NPDES										
PERMIT	6.8 / 8.5	35/100mL	S: 2.0	X X X	X X X	21	X X X	X X X	X X X	PASS/ FAIL
LIMITS			W: 2.4							
JUL.	6.8 / 7.4	5	0.1	27.5	5.72	<10				
AUG.	6.8 / 7.5	33	0.0	29.0	3.72	<10	<10	<0.1	41	PASS
SEP.	6.8 / 7.4	35	0.0	30.0	5.16	7				
OCT.	6.8 / 7.4	2	0.0	23.8	3.08	7				
NOV.	7.0 / 7.3	8	0.0	34.0	3.97	<10	<10	<0.1	46	PASS
DEC.	7.1 / 7.3	5	0.0	40.6	5.79	<10				
JAN.	7.1 / 7.6	5	0.0	21.2	3.62	<10				
FEB.	7.3 / 7.5	3	0.0	28.8	3.80	<10	<10	<0.1	107	PASS
MAR.	6.9 / 7.3	11	0.0	21.8	2.99	<10				
APR.	6.9 / 7.2	5	0.0	25.3	3.28	<10				
MAY	6.9 / 7.5	10	0.0	35.3	4.96	<10	<10	<0.1	69	PASS
JUN.	6.9 / 7.2	26	0.0	34.7	4.92	<10				
YEARLY										
AVG.	X X X	9	0.0	29.3	4.25	1	0	0	66	X X X

* "S" represents the permitted summer months (April through October)

* "W" represents the permitted winter months (November through March)