## FOG & Flushable Wipes



Stephen Calverley, Utility Analyst Dustin Tripp, Senior Utility Analyst/ORC

### Content

- City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department Overview
  - Sewer Maintenance Division

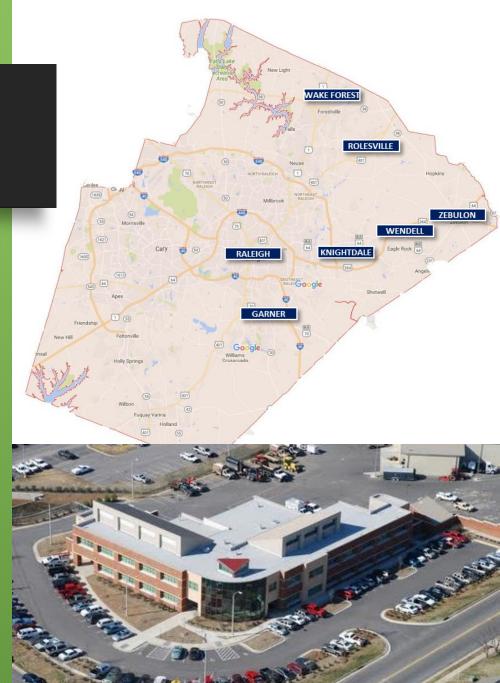
#### • Anatomy of a FOG Program

- Program Overview
- Plan Review Process
- Inspections
- Enforcement
- Outreach Efforts
- Flushable Wipes
  - Overview
  - Experiments
  - Law
  - Next Steps

### City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department

- CORPUD serves the City of Raleigh and the communities of:
  - Garner
  - Rolesville
  - Wake Forest
  - Knightdale
  - Wendell
  - Zebulon

• That is over 500,000 customers!



### Sewer Maintenance Operations



















#### Sewer Maintenance Quick Facts

Maintain over 2600+ miles of main Over 1000+ miles outside of paved surfaces

FY18 SSO Rate was 1.07



## Anatomy of a FOG Program

Presented by: Stephen Calverley



#### Fats, Oils & Grease Program Overview

- Inspect 2,228 Food Service Establishments (FSEs) and Vehicle Maintenance Facilities (VMFs)
- 4 Inspectors and 1 Coordinator
- Service area is divided into four territories
- Complete over 4,000 inspections per year





### Components of a FOG Program

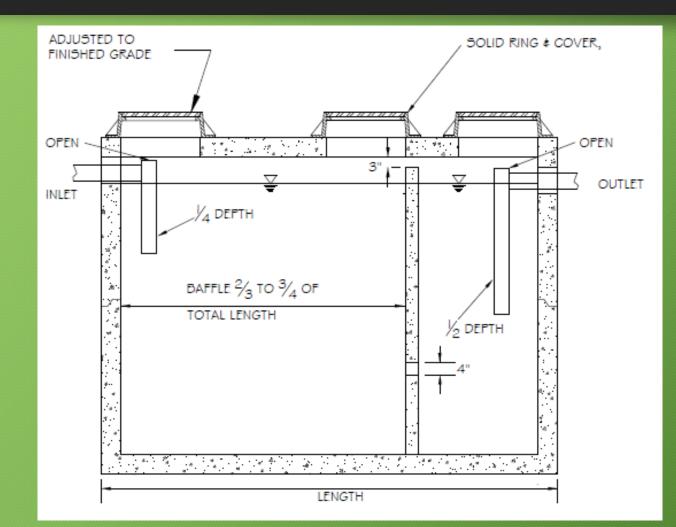
• Plan Review Risk Assessment Inspection Enforcement • Asset Management • Outreach & Education



### Plan Review

- City of Raleigh Requires a minimum 1000 gallon Interceptor
- Interceptors must conform to City of Raleigh design standards.
- Designers must compete a sizing calculator based on *The Manning's Equation*, which takes into account the slope, roughness of the pipe, and pipe diameter size.
- Designers must submit plumbing plans that verify the fixtures that convey fats, oil and grease are connected to the interceptor.
- The Fats, Oil and Grease Coordinator evaluates for approval all new and re-use interceptors.

### Design Detail



#### Risk Assessment

## RISK: The potential of FSEs and VMFs to introduce FOG into the Sanitary Sewer Collection System

- Level 1: Establishment generates a minimal amount of FOG and normally complies with COR FOG regulations
- Level 2: Establishment generates a moderate or significant amount of FOG and normally complies with COR FOG regulations
- Level 3: Establishments generates a moderate or significant amount of FOG and/or has had one or more compliance issues with COR FOG regulations. Includes establishments located in grease intensive areas.

For exterior grease interceptors, the City of Raleigh recommends cleaning to be done when:

• 75% of the retention capacity of the device has been reached

#### Or

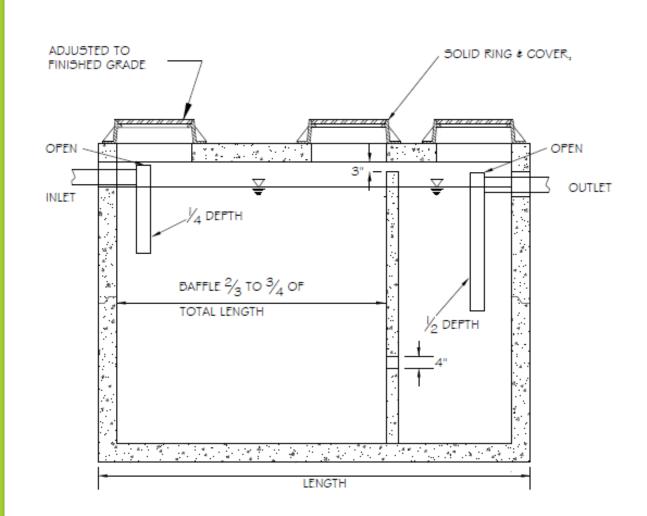
 25% of the total volume of the grease trap is comprised of grease and solids





All grease interceptors shall be completely pumped out at a minimum frequency of once per thirty calendar days, unless a variance is allowed for less frequent pumping or a pretreatment discharge permit has been issued specifically for these devices.

The overall condition of the interceptor is evaluated for proper function and required components such as inlet and outlet sanitary tees



Risk levels predicate the inspections frequency

- Risk Level 1 requires 1 annual inspection
- Risk Level 2 requires 2 annual inspections
- Risk Level 3 requires 3 annual inspections

### Inspections: Core Sampling



### Enforcement

#### Records

• Must maintain completed records on site for up to 3 years

#### Maintenance

• Pumping frequency is every 30 days

#### Components

• Must have inlet and outlet sanitary tees

#### Replacement

• Traps no longer working properly or that are corroded

#### Accessibility

• Unencumbered access for inspection

#### Blockages

- Interceptors must be in good working condition
- Storm Water Infiltration
  - Storm Water code enforcement is a sworn officer



### Enforcement Response Plans

#### The focus is protecting the collection system by gaining compliance

#### • Plan

- Needs to be written
- Should have a enforcement escalation process
- Needs to be understood by the inspectors and executed properly

#### • Enforcement actions

- Should be documented
- Need to be supported with no bias

#### Asset Management



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Facility Type FSE					
Facility Name Outback					
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Actual Finish	07/23/2018 09:26 AN		
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### Educational Outreach

- Commercial/Industrial (FSEs/VMFs)
  - Best Practices managing FOG
  - Onsite seminars
- Professional/Industry Publications
- Grease Hauler collaboration
  - Discuss what is required to meet the COR Sewer Ordinance
- Residential
  - Attend CAC (Citizen Advisory Council) meetings to discuss FOG message



### FOG Obstacles

#### • Poor

- FOG Management Practices
- Grease Interceptor Maintenance
- Records Management
- Lack of grease interceptor knowledge
- High manager turnover
- COR does not regulate grease haulers



## Questions?



## Flushable Wipes: An International Problem

Presented by: Dustin Tripp

## THIS IS NOT A TRASH CAN. Disposable' & 'Flushable' wipes clog your sewer pipes.

THINK WOUFLUSH







## of backups are caused by wipes

Source: Sydney Water





## Problems caused by Wipes







### The Problem with Wipes

Two problems are associated with wipes:

- 1. Non-flushable wipes are not labeled clearly, so consumers do not know to dispose of them in the trashcan, not the toilet
- 2. Wipes labeled "flushable" do not actually break down well in real sewer systems



#### The Issue is the Tissue

#### Definition of Nonwoven:

A primarily fibrous assembly other than a traditional paper, woven, or knit — which has been engineered to some level of structural integrity by physical and/or chemical means.

Basically, a nonwoven wipe is made to hold together better than toilet paper.



#### Cottonelle<sup>\*</sup> Toilet Paper

Soft and strong or a gentler clean the choice is yours.



#### Cottonelle<sup>®</sup> flushable Moist Wipes

Feel cleaner and fresher than with toilet paper alone.

### To be flushable

The product must:
Break into small pieces quickly
Must not be buoyant
Does not contain plastic or regenerated cellulose and only contains materials which will readily degrade in a range of natural environments

#### NRRRF Experiment

- Performed by Adele Duterte and Kerreen Ryan in 2009
- Staff used a 2000ml beaker filled with water, placed on a magnetic stirrer, and set to swirl with a whirlpool effect
- Scott's toilet paper was used as the control
  - Instantly disintegrated upon spinning
- Puff's Plus Tissues
  - No disintegration by the end of the one hour time limit

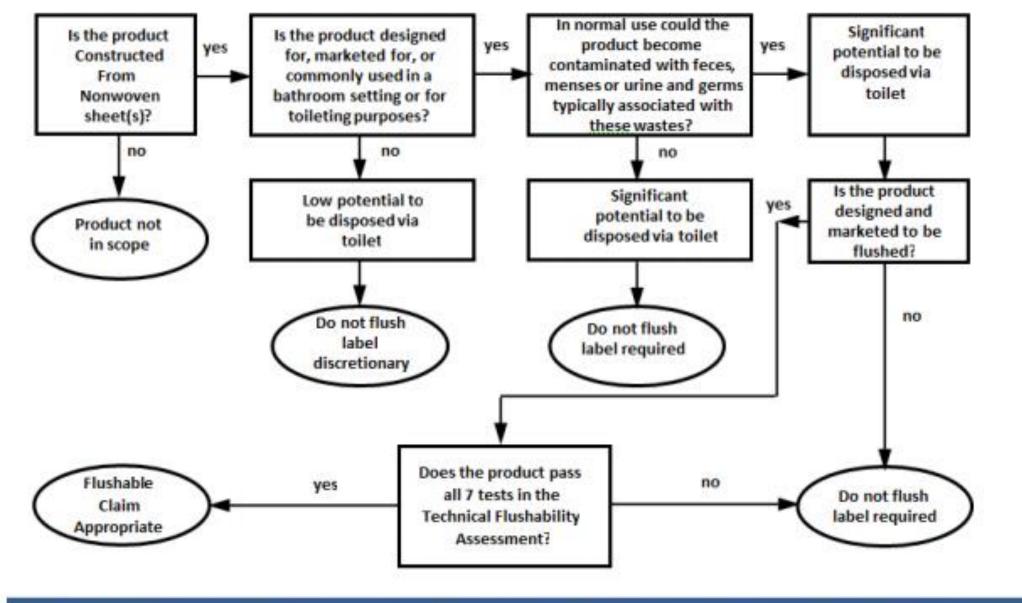
### NRRRF Experiment

#### **NO DISINTERGRATION**

- Puff's Plus Tissues
- Cottonelle Flushable Wipes
- Playtex Gentle Refresh Wipes
- Preparation H Medicated Wipes
- Tuck's Witch Hazel Hemorrhoidal Toilet Wipes
- Kandoo Flushable Wipes
- Clean & Clear Oil Blotting Sheets
- Klennex Tissue
- Scott's Scrub Cloths (half sheet)
- Scott's Flushable Wipes
- Charmin Flushable Wipes (slight after first ten minutes, none further)

#### PARTIAL DISINTERGRATION

- Natural Choice Flushable Moist Wipes (33% of product disintegrated within one hour)
- Fresh Brush by Scrubbing Bubbles (25% of product disintegrated within one hour)



INDA 2013 Guidelines

Figure 2: Illustrates the decision-making process for determining whether a product is within the scope of this Flushability Assessment and the labeling requirements specified by the INDA/EDANA Code of Practice.

### National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Experiment

In the photos: After traveling through a real sewer for 30 minutes, toilet paper (1) has completely disintegrated, while a "flushable" wipe (A) is completely intact:



Toilet paper - only ID tag remains



"Flushable" wipe completely intact

Source: http://www.nacwa.org/docs/default-source/resources---public/wipes-one-pager.pdf?sfvrsn=2

#### TasWater (Tasmania) Experiment

Our long running test shows baby wipes unchanged after 18 months. "Flushable" wipes still holding shape

# #WorldEnvironmentDay #cantflushthis

Source: https://twitter.com/Tas\_Water



#### NACWA Experiment

A previous version of the INDA flushability guidelines produced this wipe, which could be flushed 100 times without breaking apart!



### Big Money

For wipe manufacturers, heavy investments in products for adults have resonated with customers. Market research, cited in a Bloomberg News article last year, suggested that from 2008 to 2013, sales of the moist flushable wipes had grown 23 percent to \$367 million.



### DC Water's Nonwoven Disposable Products Act of 2016

• Took effect on January 1, 2018

- The Ordinance requires that wipes only be labelled as "Flushable" if they breakdown "in a short period of time after flushing in the low-force conditions of a sewer system."
- The INDA pushed Congress to reverse the ordinance but the lobbying did not succeed



### TOILET PAPER THE ONE AND ONLY FLUSHABLE WIPE



DON'T FLUSH ANYTHING BUT THE THREE PS



## Paper, Pee, & Poo

Focus on the three Ps in customer outreach

## What's Next?

## Questions?

Dustin M. Tripp ORC / Senior Utility Analyst City of Raleigh **Public Utilities Department** Sewer Maintenance Division dustin.tripp@raleighnc.gov

