

*ALBANY COUNTY  
WATER PURIFICATION DISTRICT  
Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners  
2019*



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County Executive*

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Executive Director*

## *Board of Commissioners*



*left to right , Hon. John W. Bishop, Jr., Hon. Sean E. Ward, Dennis Rigosu,  
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**“Albany County does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, genetic information, veteran status or marital status in its programs, employment and activities.”**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Albany County Water Purification District owns and operates two wastewater treatment facilities, designated North and South, which provide secondary treatment to the wastewater of eight communities in Albany County. The North plant is located in the Village of Menands and designed to treat an average daily flow of 35 MGD. The South plant is located in the Port of Albany and was designed for 19MGD and is permitted for 29 MGD.

The North plant treats wastewater from the Cities of Cohoes, Watervliet and a portion of Albany as well as the Towns of Guilderland and Colonie and the Villages of Colonie, Green Island and Menands. The South plant treats wastewater from approximately 90% of City of Albany and the Port of Albany.

All Significant Industrial Users discharging through the communities collection systems are permitted as part of the USEPA approved Pretreatment Program. Where necessary the District requires pretreatment prior discharging their wastewater.

This annual report presents the performance of the Water Purification District for the year 2019 pertaining to Operation, Maintenance, Sewer Use and related topics. Data is presented in tabular form, charts and figures wherever possible. The data clearly shows that from an overall standpoint, the District's performance was effective and efficient during the year.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

#### **1. North and South Return Sludge Pump Project**

This project kicked off in the spring of 2015. The Return Sludge Pumps and Waste Activated Sludge pumps were over forty-five years old and in need of Replacement. The project called for the replacement of three Return Sludge pumps and three Waste Activated Sludge pumps at both the North and South plant facilities. The new pumps will be more energy efficient and provide more reliability to the secondary treatment system.

CTMale was the design engineer for \$80,800  
BCI was awarded the construction contract for \$2,748,000  
Stilsing Electric was awarded the electrical contract \$444,895

Project completion was May 2019.

#### **2. Regional Biosolids Handling Facility**

The District signed an Inter-municipal agreement with Saratoga County Sewer District to establish a Regional Biosolids Handling Facility that will treat the biosolids generated at the Saratoga, Albany North and South treatment plants as well as biosolids waste from numerous smaller treatment plants and high strength organic waste. The Districts awarded the design engineering for this project to Arcadis which has teamed up with CDMSmith and Clough Harbour and Associates for \$5,806,200. The Districts share the expense of design.

This project is expected to go out to bid in the fall 2021.

This facility will be owned by both Districts and is estimated to be operational in 2023.

#### **3. South Plant Headworks Improvements**

The District has entered into an agreement with the City of Albany to improve the headworks of the treatment plant to handle screens from the Lincoln Park Long Term Control Plan project. Plans to replace the three bar screens, install a washer, drier and compactor for screenings, dumpster truck replacement, new dumpsters, and improvements to four primary pumps with the installation of double ball checks to prevent plugging. This project is scheduled for design completion and go out to bid for construction fall 2020.

## STAFFING

The staffing of the District allows most of the workload to be handled in house. The primary reason for this self-sufficiency is due to the separation of departments into Administration, Process Operation, Maintenance, and Laboratory. These individual departments promote professional expertise in many areas. The responsibilities of each department within the District are as follows:

**Administration** - This department is responsible for overall administration of the District including fiscal aspects, personnel, operation and maintenance.

**Process Operation** - The operation of all processes and unit operations within each plant are carried out by the process operating staff. Process equipment must perform as efficiently as possible, especially in the solids handling sector, to minimize plant-operating costs while maximizing pollutant removals. Process Operation is also responsible for most routine maintenance and cleanup activities, including grounds keeping.

Training of process operators and our plant safety program is also included under this department. The importance of training and safety cannot be overstated. Training operators to fill vacant process positions and the safety of all our employees benefit the overall operation and cut loss time accidents while eliminating potential safety hazards.

**Maintenance** - Both major and preventative maintenance of all mechanical, instrument and electrical equipment is the responsibility of the maintenance department. All maintenance functions for both plants fall under the responsibility of the Chiefs of Maintenance and Instrumentation. The responsibilities of this department are as follows: Maintenance of all mechanical equipment, snow removal, vehicle maintenance, instrumentation, metering pits, incinerator control systems, and electrical maintenance with the exception of high voltage systems.

**Wastewater Management** - This department provides wastewater management including input on SPDES and air permit issues and administers the industrial waste control and pre-treatment programs and the laboratory, which is State certified, and runs all of the analytical tests necessary for process control within the plant and reporting to the regulatory agencies. A sewer maintenance crew within this department insures that all dry weather wastewater flow reaches the plants for treatment and carries out the maintenance of all regulators under District control.



## **Major in-house Projects of 2019**

### **North Plant Maintenance**

- Influent Pump Wear Ring
- Two Grit Chamber rebuild
- Primary tank rebuild
- Aeration tank cleaning and repair
- Combined pump booster installation
- Installation of Dorr-Oliver on sludge holding tank

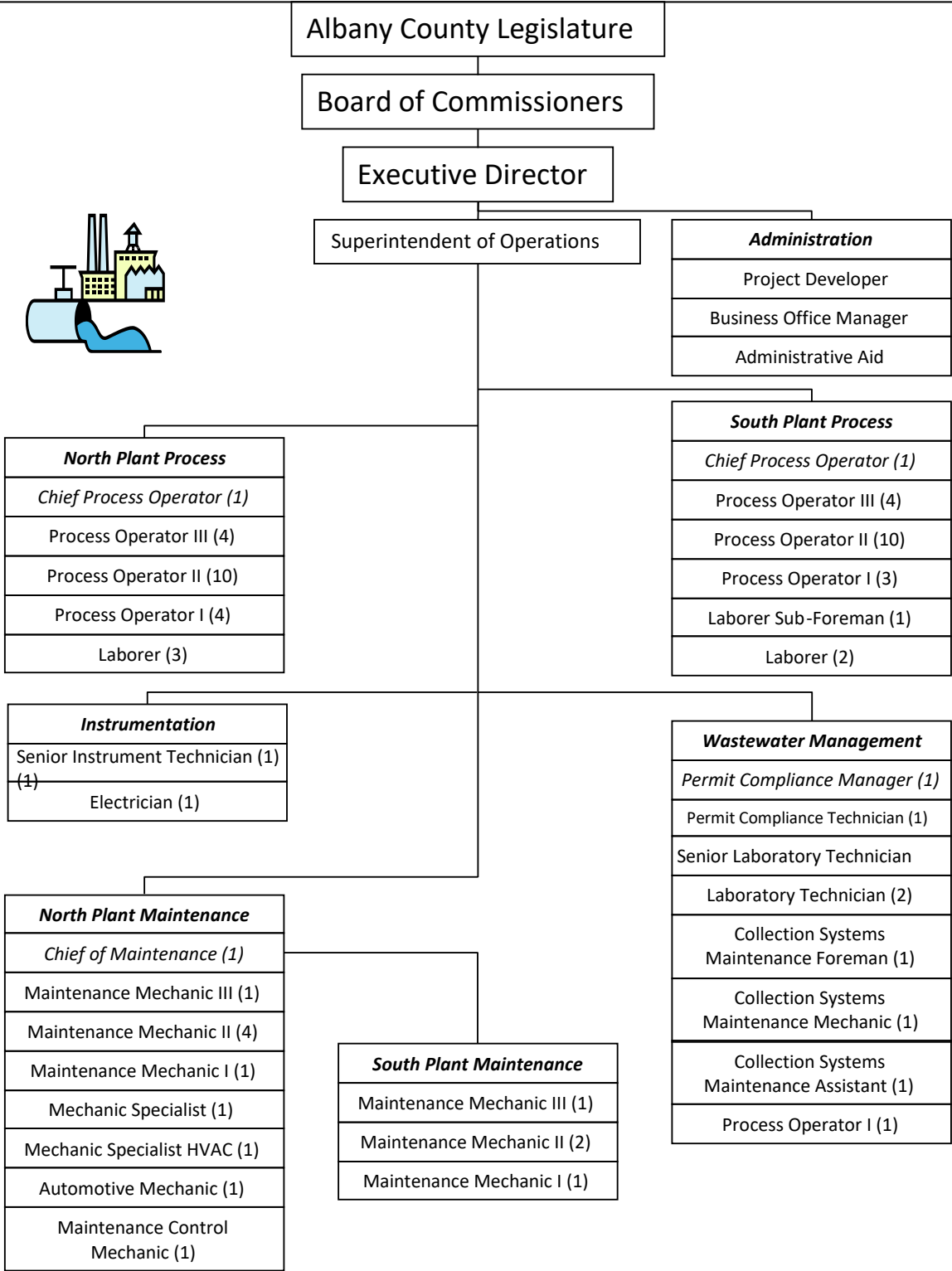
### **South Plant Maintenance**

- Rebuild of grit chamber
- Reconstruction of four grit cross collectors
- Aeration tank cleaning and repair
- Combined pump rebuild

### **Mechanic Specialist**

- Repaired sludge holding tank arms
- Replaced inspection bands on all six final clarifiers at north plant
- Installed three new split AC units (two north plant and one south plant)
- Guttled old flights, chains and steel in primary tank south plant to prep for rebuild
- Plated off and bricked up WHOH north plant
- Rebuilt two north plant hot water circulators
- Welded patch on north plant influent pump elbow

# ALBANY COUNTY WATER PURIFICATION DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL FLOW CHART



## PROCESS OPERATION

Both plants are virtually identical, from a process standpoint. Figure 1 on page 10 shows the general process units and flow pattern for the facilities. The purpose of each type of treatment is as follows:

A. **Preliminary Treatment** - Removes large material through screening and grit through grit chambers from the raw wastewater which could clog pipelines and damage mechanical equipment in downstream processes.



Grit Chamber

B. **Primary Treatment** - This is a physical process of gravity settling which removes settleable solids in the form of primary sludge. Grease and scum are also removed, since they would interfere with subsequent processes and sludge dewatering. Primary treatment removes approximately 25-35% of the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) in wastewater and 40-60% of the suspended solids in the wastewater.



Primary Tanks

B. **Secondary Treatment** - This is a biological process which uses microorganisms to remove 85-95% of the remaining suspended solids and BOD

prior to discharge to the Hudson River. Waste activated sludge is generated in this process and is mixed with primary sludge to form a combined sludge that is dewatered and incinerated.



Aeration Tank



Final Clarifier

C. **Disinfection** - Disinfection is practiced seasonally (May 1 to October 31) for the protection of public health and the improvement of water quality in the Hudson River during the recreational season. Disinfection was reinstated in the

summer of 2015 as required in the District's SPDES permit at both treatment plants. The North plant employs disinfection using Sodium Hypochlorite with dechlorination using Sodium Bisulfite. The South plant employs Ultraviolet lamp disinfection process.



Outfall

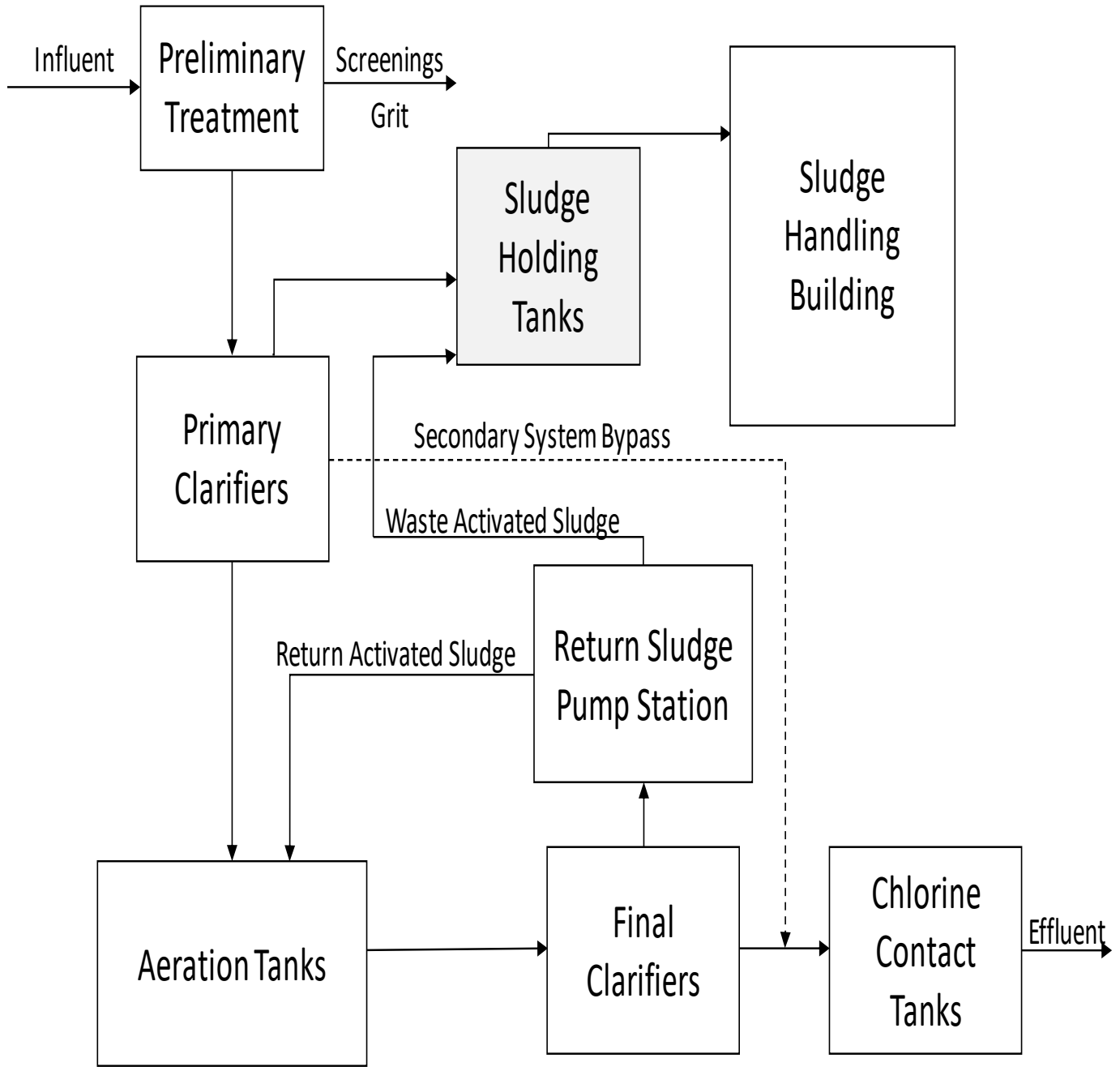


Figure 1. Wastewater Flow Schematic

## PROCESS PERFORMANCE

The performance of the process operation at the District's facilities is gauged on the removal efficiencies of the plant units which treat the incoming raw wastewater, and the effectiveness of the solids handling operations which treat and dispose of the sludge produced. In addition, the overall process performance is gauged from a cost standpoint.

Table 1 and 1A shows the removal efficiencies for standard pollutants removed from the wastewater treatment units. A review of the Tables show that effluents from both District plants were well within permit requirements for BOD, Suspended Solids, TKN and Fecal Coliform. This data reflects the type of effluent, which can be obtained from larger plants which practice both good process control and good sludge-handling techniques.

A brief definition of the parameters contained in Tables 1 and 1A are listed below:

A. **BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand)** - The amount of oxygen (mg/l) required in five days to oxidize the biodegradable organic matter in a sample at 20 degrees C.

B. **S.S. (Suspended Solids)** - The non-settleable residue in a sample which is retained on a fine fiber filter (1 micron in size) measured in mg/l.

C. **NH3 (Ammonia Nitrogen)** - The ammonia in a sample measured in mg/l.

D. **TKN (Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen)** - The total of the ammonia plus the organic nitrogen in a sample measured in mg/l.

E. **Fecal Coliform** - The disinfection process is used to kill or inactivate microorganisms in the wastewater to meet established water quality standards.



TABLE 1  
PROCESS PERFORMANCE DATA - 2019  
**NORTH PLANT**

Parameter	Influent (mg/l)	Effluent (mg/l)	Discharge Permit Limit (mg/l)	Efficiency %	Tons Removed Per Day	Tons Discharged Per Day
BOD	195	4.0	25.0	97.9	18.09	0.38
S.S.	321	6.6	30.0	98.0	29.72	0.62
NH <sub>3</sub>	11.7	3.3		71.7	0.79	0.31
TKN	26.9	5.1	15.2*	81.2	2.07	0.48
Fecal Coliform		33	200 colonies Per 100 ml **			

Average Flow -22.70 MGD

\*Seasonal June 1 to October 31

\*\* Seasonal May 1 to October 31

TABLE 1A  
PROCESS PERFORMANCE DATA - 2019  
**SOUTH PLANT**

Parameter	Influent (mg/l)	Effluent (mg/l)	Discharge Permit Limit (mg/l)	Efficiency %	Tons Removed Per Day	Tons Discharged Per Day
BOD	73	2.8	25.0	96.2	6.85	0.27
S.S.	114	5.6	30.0	95.1	10.50	0.54
NH <sub>3</sub>	6.9	1.2		82.3	0.55	0.12
TKN	14.8	1.9	15.4*	87.3	1.25	0.18
Fecal Coliform		30	200 colonies Per 100 ml **			

Average Flow – 23.33 MGD

\*Seasonal June 1 to October 31

\*\*Seasonal May 1 to October 31

## SOLIDS HANDLING

Sludge thickening and dewatering processes are identical at both plants and are contained in a Solids Handling Building at each facility. Figure 2 on page 16 shows the units, which make up the solids handling processes and operations at the District. The solids handling flow schematic and operations are described as follows:

A. Flotation Thickeners - Waste activated sludge (0.3 - 1.0% solids) is thickened by the use of dissolved air flotation units to 4.0 - 7.0% solids.

B. Sludge Holding Tanks - Primary and thickened waste activated sludge is mixed and stored in holding tanks prior to dewatering.

C. Belt Filter Presses - The combined sludge (primary and thickened waste activated) is pumped from the holding tanks and chemically conditioned with International Dioxide Endimal for odor control and polymer for coagulation and flocculation prior to being dewatered on a belt press. The belt press dewateres the sludge to a fairly dry cake (20 - 30% solids).



Two-Meter Belt Filter Press

D. Incineration - The cake formed by the dewatered sludge on the belt filter press is next incinerated in a multiple hearth incinerator. The resulting ash from the incineration process is then stored in lagoons prior to ultimate disposal at a landfill site. Between the two plants the District generates approx. 9,000 to 13,000 cubic yards of ash annually. The District maintains a Beneficial Use Determination for the ash.

## SOLIDS HANDLING PERFORMANCE

Tables 2 and 3 show the solids handling performance data for the North and South Plant sludge thickening and dewatering equipment respectively. The data is in two parts. To the left of the slash is 2019 data and to the right of the slash is a five-year average of solids handling performance. Using a five-year average of chemical dosages and sludge cake percent solids gives a better insight into actual solids handling performance since variations from year to year and plant to plant are dependent on many variables affecting treatment and costs.

Chemical dosage at the North Plant for polymer increased 5% compared to the five-year average and the oxidant increased 31.8%, compared to the five-year average.

Chemical dosage at the South Plant for polymer decreased 7.2% compared to the five-year average and the oxidant decreased 6.2%, compared to the five-year average. The North Plant experienced an decrease in cake percent solids of .5% and the South Plant a decrease of .7% compared to the five-year average.

Increase or decrease in the amount of oxidant is dictated by the amount of sulfides released by the combined sludge during processing. International Dioxide Endimal oxidizes the hydrogen sulfide which is a very corrosive gas attacking ferrous metals and concrete. The New York State Department of Labor has set a limit of ten parts per million to protect worker health and safety.

The data in Tables 2 and 3 indicates that the solids handling units operate at high efficiencies. High efficiencies are important since the wastewaters produced by these units are returned to the head of the plant for treatment. If a high concentration of solids and/or B.O.D. were returned, the result would be higher treatment costs.

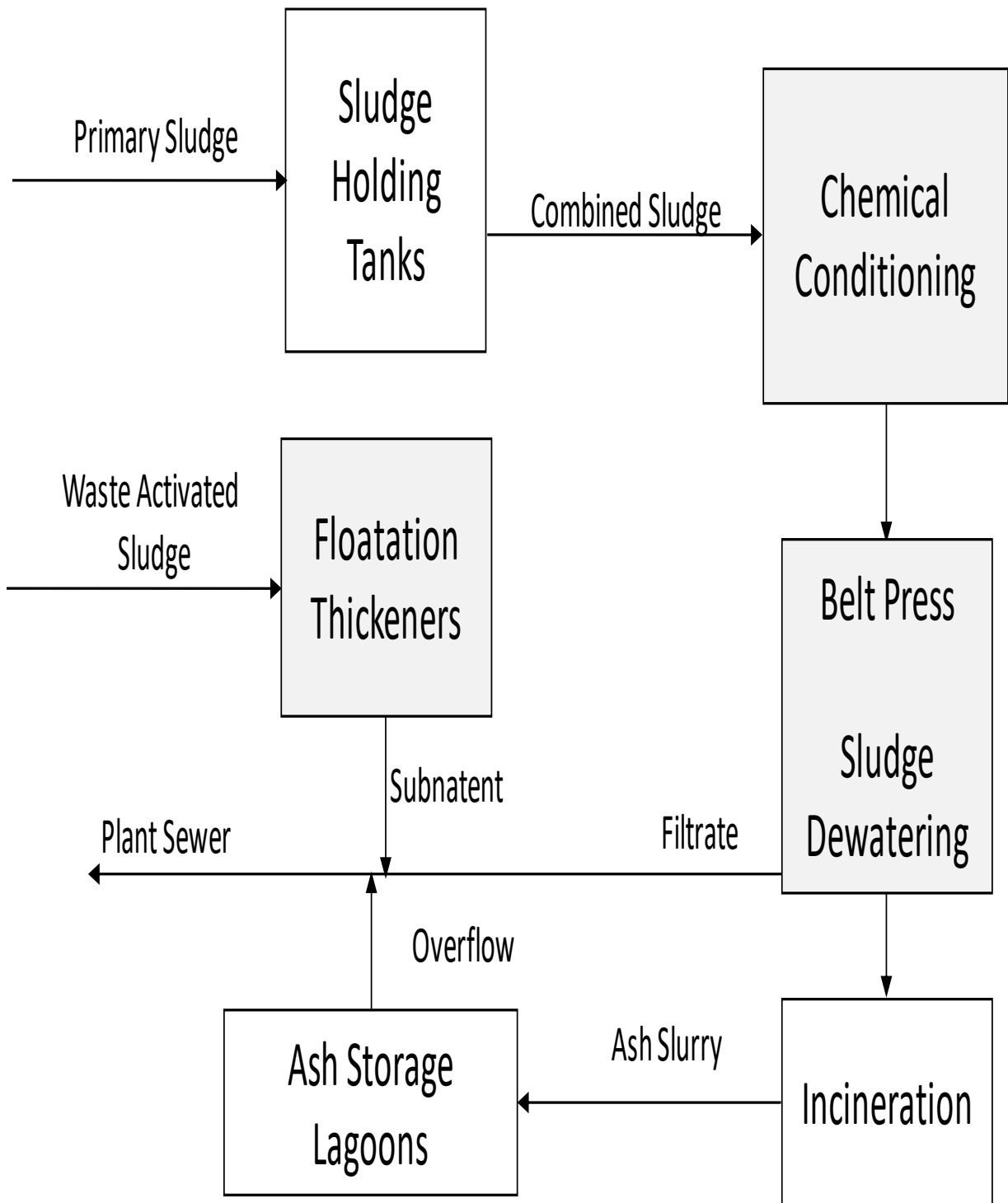


Figure 2. Solids Handling Schematic

Table 2

Solids Handling Performance Data

**NORTH PLANT**

Flotation Thickeners

Parameter	Feed (Influent) (mg/l)	Overflow (to plant sewer) (mg/l)	% Efficiency	Thickened Sludge Solids %	Chemical Dosage (Polymer) %
Suspended Solids	5,091 / 4,567	185 / 280	96.4 / 93.9	4.7 / 5.0	8.2 / 9.1

Belt Filter Press

Parameter	Combined Sludge Feed (mg/l)	Filtrate (to plant sewer) (mg/l)	% Efficiency	Dewatered Sludge Solids %	Polymer #/Dry Ton Oxidant #/Dry Ton
Suspended Solids	35,148 / 33,492	577 / 292	98.4 / 99.1	24.0 / 24.1	142.1 / 134.8 23.2 / 15.8

Numbers to the left of the slash mark are 2019 figures; numbers to the right indicate a five-year average 2014-2018

Table 3

Solids Handling Performance Data

**SOUTH PLANT**

Flotation Thickeners

Parameter	Feed (Influent) (mg/l)	Overflow (to plant sewer) (mg/l)	% Efficiency	Thickened Sludge Solids %	Chemical Dosage (Polymer) %
Suspended Solids	5,934 / 5,519	36 / 12	96.4 / 99.7	4.6 / 5.3	2.3 / 2.8

Belt Filter Press

Parameter	Combined Sludge Feed (mg/l)	Filtrate (to plant sewer) (mg/l)	% Efficiency	Dewatered Sludge Solids %	Polymer #/Dry Ton Oxidant #/Dry Ton
Suspended Solids	27,012 / 29,266	527 / 347	98.0 / 98.7	23.5 / 23.2	127.0 / 136.9 16.5 / 17.6

Numbers to the left of the slash mark are 2019 figures; numbers to the right indicate a five-year average 2014-2018

## **SOLIDS HANDLING AND PLANT OPERATING COSTS**

The overall usage, cost, and cost per dry ton of solids handling for chemicals, labor, power and fuel energy requirements for the dewatering and disposal of sludge at each plant are shown in Table 4. The contributing factors are varied and reflect the cost of the raw materials needed to process the sludge and the amount and quality of sludge produced at each plant. Generally speaking, the more sludge processed the higher the overall cost, but will reflect a lower cost per dry ton of solids handled.

The total costs for solids handling increased \$50,966 North and increased \$19,906 South as compared to 2018. In 2019 the total revenues received from the scavenger waste, sewage sludge and the South Plant gray water sales were \$2,057,625. These revenues defray costs to the member communities by applying the monies to the O&M budget and paying for capital projects with cash in lieu of financing, so as not to increase debt service.

The total cost per dry ton processed increased 3.9%, North and increased 2.3% at the South Plant compared to 2018 figures. A decrease in the amount of sludge processed of 22.5% North and an decrease of 3.1% at the South Plant, contributed to these costs as mentioned above.

The plant operating costs, which are contained in Table 5, represent the overall operation and maintenance expenditures for each plant during 2019. This category includes all costs associated with sewage treatment except debt service and administration costs. Power, fuel energy, chemical and maintenance and miscellaneous costs rise and fall from year to year depending on the amount of sludge and wastewater processed and the cost of raw materials associated with solids handling. Generally, the more sludge processed during a given year the higher the cost associated with these items.

The total operating costs increased 13.7% North and 15.3% South as compared to 2018 figures. The combined plant operating costs increased \$912,795 or 12.3% as compared to 2018.

- Power - \$165,339
- Natural Gas + \$28,139
- Chemical + \$8,763
- Labor + \$709,549
- Maintenance + \$651,684



Table 4

**2019 SOLIDS HANDLING COSTS**

	North Plant	South Plant
Dry Solids Incinerated (tons)	5,641.5	3238.1
Fuel Energy Requirement (thermal units)	262,889	224,200
Polymer Used (tons)	400.7	205.6
Siemens Tech. VX-456 Oxidant Used (tons)	65.5	26.8
Man-Hours	22,464	14,977
Fuel Energy Requirements	\$ 156,274	\$ 131,142
Chemical Costs	\$ 230,198	\$ 102,461
Manpower Costs	\$ 792,305	\$ 528,239
Power Costs	\$ 105,709	\$ 85,187
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 1,284,460</b>	<b>\$ 847,028</b>

Cost Per Dry Ton Solids Handled	North Plant	South Plant
Fuel Energy	\$ 27.70	\$ 40.50
Chemical	\$ 40.80	\$ 31.64
Labor	\$ 140.44	\$ 163.13
Power	\$ 18.74	\$ 26.31
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 227.68</b>	<b>\$ 261.58</b>

Table 5

**Plant Operating Costs - January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019**

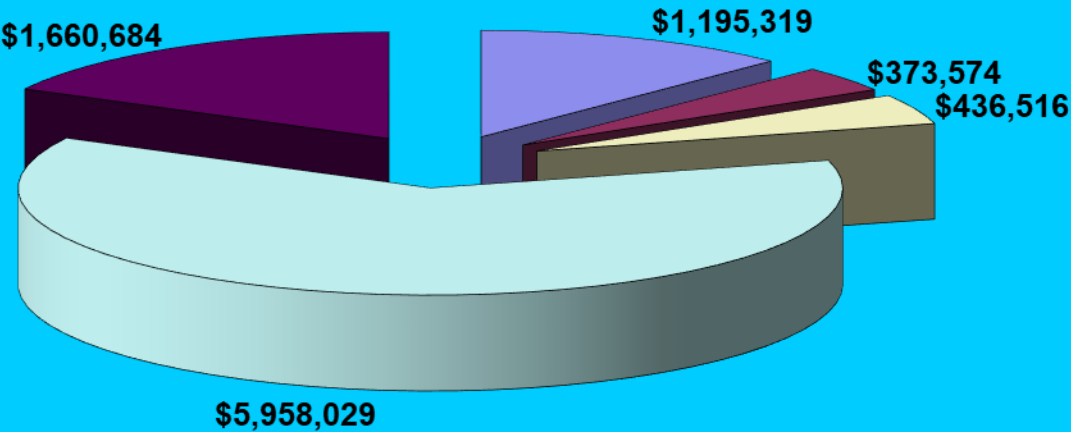
	North Plant	* % Change	South Plant	* % Change
Dry Solids Removed (tons)	5,641.5	-22.5	3,238.1	-3.1
Volume Treated (millions of gallons)	8,285	+2.8	8,515	
Lb. BOD Removed Per Day	36,185	-4.1	13,693	-15.2
Power Cost	\$661,832	-17.2	\$533,487	-8.2
Fuel Energy Requirement (natural gas)	\$175,701	+13.2	\$197,873	+4.1
Chemical Cost	\$327,313	+4.6	\$109,203	+4.9
Operating Manpower	\$3,276,916	+13.5	\$2,681,113	+13.5
Maint. & Misc. Costs	\$913,376	+64.6	\$747,308	+64.6
<b>TOTAL PLANT OPERATING COSTS</b>	<b>\$5,355,137</b>	<b>+12.1</b>	<b>\$4,268,984</b>	<b>+13.2</b>
Cost Per 1,000 Gallons Treated	\$0.65	+10.6	\$0.50	+15.4
Overall Cost/Ton Dry Solids Removed	\$949.25	+46.7	\$1,318.35	+19.1
Cost Per lb. BOD Removed	\$0.41	+18.6	\$0.85	+36.0

\*Compared to 2018

**TOTAL PLANT OPERATING & MAINTENANCE COSTS**

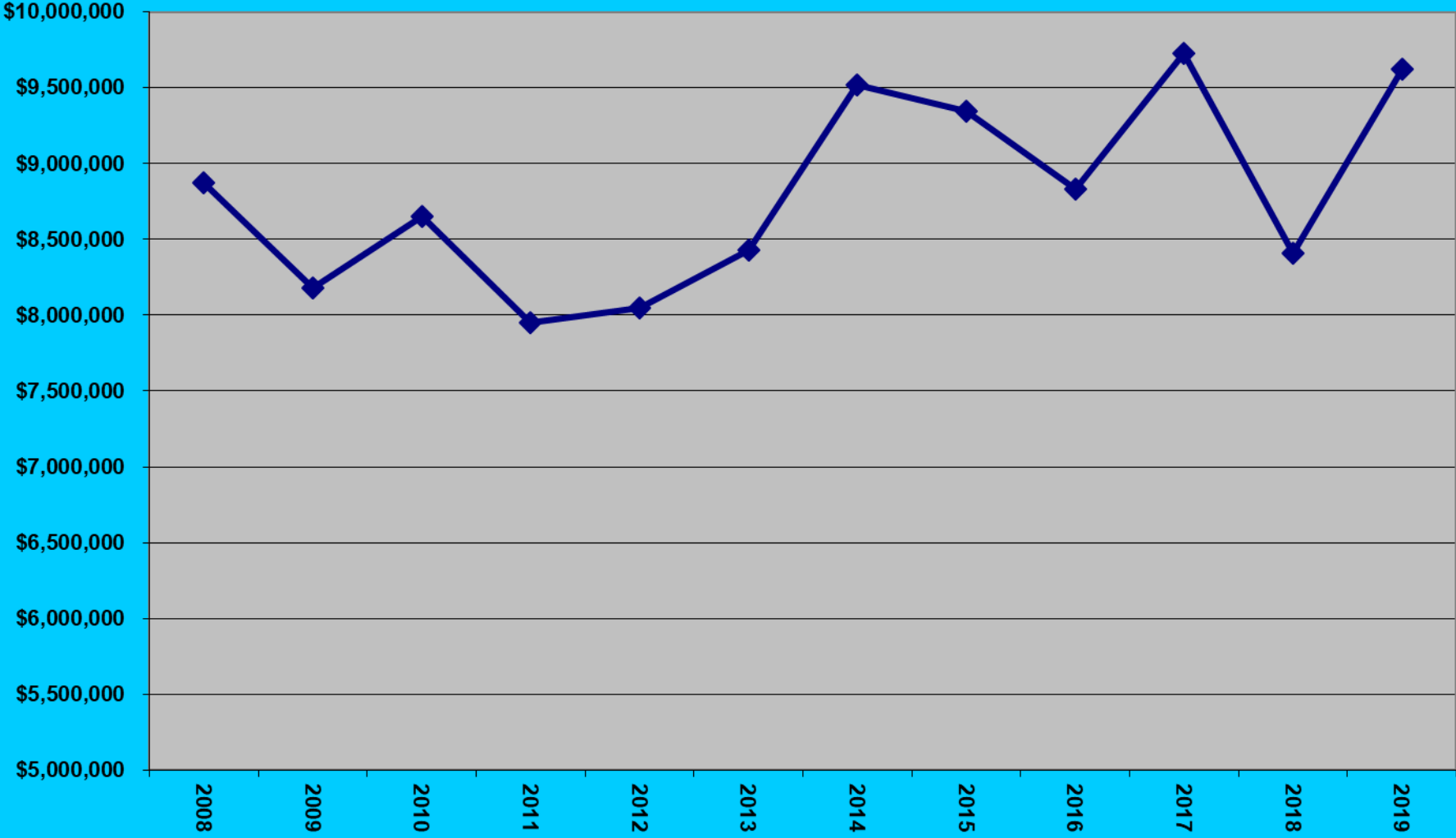
Year	Total Costs
2019	\$ 9,624,121
2018	\$8,411,326
2017	\$9,728,494
2016	\$8,830,223
2015	\$ 9,341,879
2014	\$ 9,517,155
2013	\$ 8,428,004
2012	\$ 8,050,342
2011	\$ 7,948,104
2010	\$ 8,652,111

# Total Plant O&M 2019 \$9,624,121



□ Power Costs   ■ Fuel Energy Requirement   □ Chemicals   □ Operating Manpower   ■ Maint. & Misc. Costs

# Total Plant O&M Costs 2008-2019



## REGULATION OF SEWER USE

In accordance with the USEPA's Federal Pretreatment Requirements (40 CFR Part 403), during 2019 the Albany County Water Purification District's approved Pretreatment Program's sampling and analysis program was continued. In addition, Industrial user visitations and impromptu inspections were conducted by the District's Permit Compliance Manager and the Permit Compliance Technician. In addition to the review of self-monitoring required of all permitted industrial users, the District sampled all significant industrial users in 2019 to ensure continued compliance with permit limitations.

Pursuant to Federal requirements 40 CFR Part 403, the Albany County Water Purification District is required to report instances of SNC (Significant Non-Compliance) with the USEPA Pretreatment Standards and/or Requirements and/or the Districts Sewer Use Ordinance during 2019. One SIU was found to be in significant non-compliance for this reporting period, Bimbo Bakeries. Due to increase in production and equipment failure in the muffin de-panning process, Bimbo Bakeries was in SNC for the first quarter of 2019. Subsequent permit exceedances required the District to issue three Administrative Directives. The Company worked with the District to implement updated BMP's and upgrade equipment. The Company came out of SNC and had remained in full compliance for the remainder of 2019. Minor permit violations were handled by issuing either a NOV (Notice Of Violation) or an Administrative Directive, in accordance with the District's federally approved enforcement response plan.

The District continued to evaluate the need to permit additional industrial users throughout 2019. No additional permitted industrial users were identified in 2019.

The District has developed a Mercury Minimization Program (MMP) in anticipation of fulfilling the requirements of the SPDES permit conditions placed on CSO communities by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The goal of the MMP is to identify, document, and monitor the loading of mercury to the (District) North Plant and South Plant from the eight member community collection systems, in an effort to make reasonable progress towards achieving the Water Quality Based Effluent Limit (WQBEL), through cost-effective measures. The NYSDEC is in the process of issuing SPDES permits to wastewater treatment plants and combined sewer systems with the requirement of a MMP in order to be eligible for the Multiple Discharge Variance (MDV) and an alternate total mercury effluent concentration. This MMP conforms to the requirements of the MDV specified in the NYSDEC policy DOW 1.3.10 and is in compliance with NDPEs permits issued to its four member communities that operate combined sewer systems.

## Collection System

The District continues to inspect and clean the remaining regulator structures, and is aiding the member communities in satisfying the requirements of the newly implemented IMP. The District aided in the cleaning of Vortex Units located on Schoolhouse Road and Fuller Road, in an effort to prevent flooding during storm events.



## **SAFETY**

The goal of the Sewer District is to give its employees the safest work environment possible. To reach this goal the District has implemented many procedures, which protect the employee's health and safety. Lockout-tag out, confined space entry and respiratory protection procedures along with safety training and plant safety seminars have been implemented to reach this goal. Our safety officer works closely with the National Safety Council.

Our safety officer and District Safety Committee investigate each accident report filed by any employee and any unsafe condition is rectified to remove the safety hazard.

The District's safety committee meets bi-monthly with representatives from each department. The District holds Hazardous Communication meetings annually for all employees to go over all safety programs. The District continues to have representation on the countywide Safety Committee, which is evaluating all county safety, health and training issues.

Total lost time accounted for 131 man-days. The total lost time was an increase of 104 days as compared to the previous year. The number of reported accidents increased from the previous year. The District continues to evaluate all equipment and procedures so that the safest work environment is provided to all employees. In cooperation with County Human Resources, the District also takes a pro-active stance investigating all injury claims for legitimacy and validity.

The Albany County Code Enforcement inspects the District facilities routinely. The District was shown to be in compliance with all mandated safety programs. Internal inspections found minor safety issues that were corrected immediately by the District.

**Table 6 – Accident Report 2019**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Type of Injury</u>	<u>Lost Man Days</u>
North Plant Operating	Final Tank – fell to grate on knees, hyper extended knee	0
	Installing piece of sheet metal, felt a “pop” in abdominal area	35
	Wooden splinter in hand	0
	Stepping off ladder, slipped on floor	0
	Pulling down on a wrench, felt shoulder pop	25
	Slipped getting out of truck, hurt right shoulder	0
South Plant Operating	Stepped over puddle, slipped pulling groin	0
	Lifting buckets with rope, pulled groin	0
	Pulling hose, slipped on floor, cut head	0
	Slipped going down stairs, injured right knee	23
	Cleaning out ash, leaned on hot rake burned right side of chest	0
Maintenance	Repetitive lifting overhead strained neck and shoulder	47
	Carrying ladder, pulled right side of neck muscle	1
	<b>Total work days lost</b>	<b>131</b>

