



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth Communications Office

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DATE: 06/23/2011

SUBJECT: Heavy Rains Cause Sanitary Sewer Overflow

BY: Pakou Ly, Public Information Coordinator

Heavy Rains Cause Sanitary Sewer Overflow

[Duluth, MN] - The City of Duluth Utility Operations division reports that heavy rains have caused a wastewater bypass at 117 W Niagara St. The overflow began at 10:15 AM Wednesday morning (6/22/2011) and lasted until 6:30 PM Wednesday evening. Samples were drawn and will be analyzed for TSS, BOD, Fecal Coliform, and Phosphorus.

Overflow volume was approximately 48,000 gallons. The State Duty Officer was notified immediately. The City of Duluth Utility Employees have been responding to various water related calls since Wednesday.

Residents should avoid contact with any sewer overflow due to the potential for exposure to disease-causing organisms. Residents are also asked to report any overflow from a manhole. Storm sewers and sanitary sewers may lift and move manhole covers creating a dangerous fall hazard when the overflow ceases. Contact the City of Duluth at 723-4100, 24 hours per day to report overflowing manholes or any open manhole.

The City has been making progress with construction of sewer overflow storage tanks and sewer diversion systems to alleviate the problems of overflows into Lake Superior to comply with a consent decree with the Environmental Protection Agency and to maintain the sustainability of this important natural resource.

For additional information, contact Utility Operations Manager Steve Lipinski at (218) 730-4130; or Pakou Ly in the City's Communications Office at (218) 730-5309.