



CONTACT: DEP Press Office, 850-245-2112, DEPNews@FloridaDEP.gov

Piney Point Update – Dec. 16, 2021

Today, DEP issued the permit to Manatee County for their planned underground injection control well for Piney Point. DEP determined that Manatee County's application to construct and test an underground injection control well and an associated dual zone monitor well meets all applicable regulations for protection of ground water resources and the environment following a thorough review. This review included 12 requests for additional information and approximately 7,356 public comments. DEP issued the [Notice of Intent to Issue](#) the permit on Nov. 24, 2021, and no petitions or requests for additional time were filed following the notice.

This project is one critical element of the necessary water disposal that will enable the ultimate closure of the Piney Point facility once and for all, eliminating the threat from this site to the environment and the community permanently.

Key status updates and response activities (bolded and underlined language reflects changes):

- The site received no rain overnight. Piney Point has received approximately 35.24 inches of rain since the beginning of June. The current storage capacity for additional rainfall at the site is approximately **17 inches**. This capacity is expected to change with rainfall amounts, as well as adjusted water management activities at the site. At this time, expected rainfall through the end of December is approximately one inch.
- As part of the site's water management efforts, piping of water to the North Regional Water Reclamation Facility resumed Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021, and to date, **9,585,645 gallons** have been transferred. Spray evaporation also continues.
- Approximately 264 million gallons are currently held within the NGS-South compartment. Pond level readings are expected to fluctuate due to a host of

factors, including rainfall, water management activities and wind/associated waves in the pond.

- Innovative technology has been used for onsite water treatment since April 2021, and this is ongoing. As a result of these innovative water treatment practices, nutrients, including Total Phosphorus (TP) and Total Nitrogen (TN), have been significantly reduced. To date, approximately 200 tons of TN and 150 tons of TP have been removed from ponded wastewater.
- The department has finalized its agreement with the court-appointed receiver, supporting his transition into his role to both manage and undertake final closure of the site. This agreement was finalized after a judge issued an order on Aug. 25, 2021, appointing a receivership to serve as an independent third party to oversee management and closure of the Piney Point site. Day-to-day management and operations now come from this receiver. As part of this transition, water treatment will continue and all available options to manage water onsite will continue to be pursued in an attempt to minimize the potential need for any future treated discharges.
- On Aug. 5, 2021, DEP filed a complaint in the 12th Judicial Circuit Court of Manatee County initiating enforcement action against HRK Holdings, LLC. Learn more by reviewing DEP's [enforcement complaint](#) and a [frequently asked questions](#) document.
- DEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#) details sampling locations and corresponding results collected from April through October 2021 to evaluate any environmental impact. For a comprehensive view of all sampling in Tampa Bay related to Piney Point, visit Tampa Bay Estuary Program's [interactive water quality dashboard](#).
- DEP continues working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Department of Health to [monitor algal blooms and water quality](#). FWC is the lead agency on red tide and will continue to update conditions on their [website](#). For more information on red tide, please visit [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov](#).

Residents can find the latest information on the status of the site and response activities at [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate](#).

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/301471d>



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Preferences](#) | [Delete Profile](#) | [Help](#)