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For Immediate Release: Wednesday, August 17, 2022

Stormwater/Wastewater Discharge in Owasco River

On August 16, 2022, the Cayuga County Health Department was notified by NY-Alert, New York State's emergency notification system, that due to excessive rain, 2 combined sewer overflow facilities in the City of Auburn activated on August 16, 2022 resulting in the discharge of stormwater and partially treated wastewater into the Owasco River. Per the City of Auburn, these combined sewer overflows are permitted to discharge by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

According to an update sent out through the NY-Alert System, the first discharge occurred at 1 Miller St. at 2:16pm and lasted for approximately 37 minutes releasing 30,552 gallons. The second discharge occurred at 20 Genesee St. at 2:16pm and lasted for approximately 35 minutes releasing 30,000 gallons. To sign up for alerts, please visit New York State's NY - Alert system at <https://alert.ny.gov>.

Due to these discharges, partially treated wastewater has entered the Owasco River. Wastewater may contain disease-causing pathogens. The Owasco River water is not regulated by the Cayuga County Health Department and the area of the discharge should be avoided. If persons choose to recreate in an unregulated body of water, they should avoid getting water in their mouth, wash their hands afterwards, and shower once they return home.

These permitted discharges do NOT affect the public drinking water source (Owasco Lake) as the discharge is downstream and flows north.

For more information, please call the Cayuga County Health Department at 315-253-1560.
