

The City of Clifton is participating in the SSO program with TCEQ

What is an SSO?

An SSO is a type of unauthorized discharge of untreated or partially treated wastewater from a collection system or its components (e.g., a manhole, lift station, or cleanout) before it reaches a wastewater treatment facility.

Collection systems that are properly designed, operated, and maintained will collect and transport all of the sewage and industrial wastewater that flow into them to a facility for appropriate treatment. However, SSOs can occur if there is significant inflow/infiltration, the collection system is poorly operated and maintained, or the system lacks adequate capacity to collect or store flows for treatment, or to treat them.

What is the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Initiative?

The Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Initiative is a voluntary program initiated in 2004 in an effort to address an increase in SSOs due to aging collection systems throughout the state and encourage corrective action before there is harm to human health and safety or the environment.

What are the Benefits of Participating?

- A participating system will not be subject to formal enforcement by TCEQ for most continuing SSO violations, as long as the overflows are addressed by the SSO plan. *Note:* Participation in the TCEQ's SSO Initiative does not preclude federal enforcement action by the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Participation allows the municipality to direct resources towards corrective actions rather than having to pay penalties associated with an enforcement order in addition to the corrective actions.
- Participation ensures that SSOs addressed by the SSO plan will not affect the system's compliance-history rating.