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for Scientific Information  
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Sewage Pollution of Area Streams*

*By: David J. Wilson & J. R. Christensen  
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## SEWAGE POLLUTION OF AREA STREAMS

During the last two years the Committee has demonstrated the gross pollution of several Monroe County streams with sanitary sewage. The present report gives follow-up data on some of these violations of water standards and also includes data taken on Black Creek, the Barge Canal, and Paddy Hill Creek. The results are as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Coliform Index</u>
<b>Slater Creek</b>			
Mouth at Little Pond	Aug. 25		1,800
	Oct. 11		1,400
Ling & Kirkwood Rds. (downstream from Latta Rd. plant)	Aug. 25	Stench, sludge banks	0*
	Oct. 11	Stench, sludge banks	0**
<b>Summerville Plant Irondequoit</b>			
	Aug. 25	Tested plant effluent. Tests for free chlorine were positive. Greaseballs, tan sediment, 4 condoms noted.	0*
	Oct. 11	Tested plant effluent. Free chlorine tests positive. Lots of greaseballs and sediment noted.	0*
<b>Pattenwood Plant Irondequoit</b>			
	Aug. 25	Tested plant effluent. Tests for free chlorine were positive. Grey-tan sediment, a few greaseballs noted.	0*
	Oct. 11	Tested effluent. Free chlorine tests negative. Sediment noted.	60,000
<b>Genesee River Base of west jetty</b>			
	Oct. 11		60,000
<b>Barge Canal</b>			
Approx. 100 yds. east of river in Genesee Valley Park	Sept. 22		12,000
	Oct. 10		6,700
<b>Paddy Hill Creek</b>			
Maiden Lane, approx. .2 miles west of Ridge Rd.	Oct. 11		58,000
English Rd, approx. .6 miles west of Ridge Rd.	Oct. 11		13,500

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Coliform Index</u>
Black Creek Mouth, as it joins Genesee River	Sept. 22		250

\* less than 1,000

\*\* less than 100

### Interpretation

The counts obtained on Slater Creek during this study indicate that the sewage being discharged by the Latta Road plant of the Town of Greece is disinfected at the present time, in contrast to the results we obtained this summer. Observations made on the creek indicate that it is heavily overloaded with suspended solids. Overloading with effluent of poor quality is also indicated by the odor of the stream.

Results on Irondequoit's Summerville plant indicate disinfection of the effluent, but establish that this plant is continuing to discharge solids, in violation of state law.

Results on Irondequoit's Pattenwood plant indicate that the plant is chlorinating, but that at times (October 11, for instance) effective disinfection is still not achieved, due probably to use of insufficient quantities of chlorine. This plant continues to discharge grey-tan sediment. This plant and the combined storm-sanitary sewers of Rochester are probably responsible for the count of 60,000 obtained at the mouth of the river. New York state law specifies counts not exceeding 2,400 in streams to which the public is potentially exposed.

The counts on the Barge Canal in Genesee Valley Park indicate that this water does not meet New York State standards for streams to which the public is potentially exposed.

The single count on Black Creek suggests that no serious sources of sewage pollution exist on the lower reaches of the creek.

The counts on Paddy Hill Creek, which runs through the Town of Greece in the vicinity of Mt. Read Blvd., are very high, much higher than is generally found in unpolluted streams, in which one expects coliform indices ranging from a few hundred to perhaps a couple of thousand. We do not know the source(s) of this pollution at present. Possible sources are improperly used or defective septic tanks, or sanitary sewer connections to storm sewers. The creek runs through some residential areas and near a school. Further work on Paddy Hill Creek is badly needed.

D.J. Wilson  
J.R. Christensen

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