



Commonwealth of Virginia

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1111 E. Main Street, Suite 1400, Richmond, Virginia 23219

P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218

(800) 592-5482

www.deq.virginia.gov

Travis A. Voyles
Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Michael S. Rolband, PE, PWD, PWS Emeritus
Director
(804) 698-4020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

To:

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin, Governor
Glenn.Youngkin@governor.virginia.gov

The Honorable Travis A. Voyles
Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources
Travis.Voyles@governor.virginia.gov

The Honorable Janet D. Howell
Chair, Senate Committee on Finance and
Appropriations
district32@senate.virginia.gov

The Honorable Chap Petersen
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation
and Natural Resources
district34@senate.virginia.gov

The Honorable Barry D. Knight
Chair, House Committee on Appropriations
DelBKnight@house.virginia.gov

The Honorable R. Lee Ware, Jr.
Chair, House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake
and Natural Resources
DelLWare@house.virginia.gov

The Honorable Lynwood W. Lewis, Jr.
Vice-Chair, Chesapeake Bay Commission
district06@senate.virginia.gov

The Honorable Robert S. Bloxom, Jr.
Member, Chesapeake Bay Commission
DelRBloxom@house.virginia.gov

The Honorable David L. Bulova
Member, Chesapeake Bay Commission
DelDBulova@house.virginia.gov

The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
Member, Chesapeake Bay Commission
district24@senate.virginia.gov

The Honorable Missy Cotter Smasal
Member, Chesapeake Bay Commission
missy_cotter@hotmail.com

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Member, Chesapeake Bay Commission
Andrew.Wheeler@governor.virginia.gov

The Honorable Tony Wilt
Member, Chesapeake Bay Commission
DelTWilt@house.virginia.gov

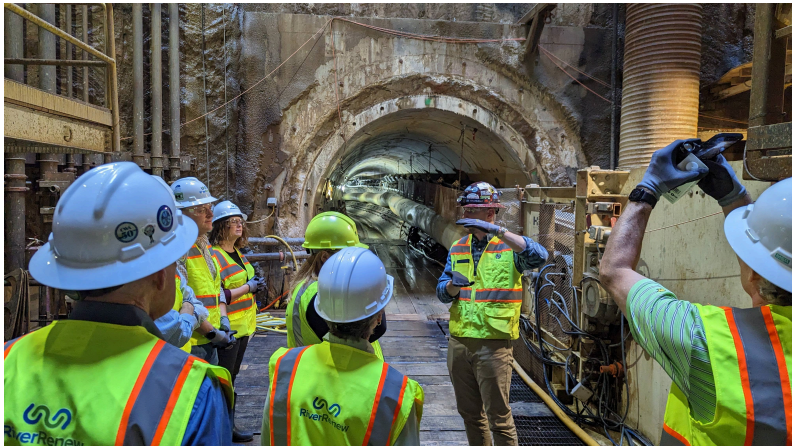
From: Mike Rolband 
Date: December 27, 2023
Subject: Alexandria Combined Sewer Overflow Outfall Progress Report (2023)

In accordance with the 2017 Virginia Acts of Assembly Chapters 826 and 827, the Department of Environmental Quality is transmitting the attached 2023 General Assembly Report for Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) Permit VA0025160 from Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew).

If you have any questions concerning this report or would like a hard copy of this report, please contact Brandon Bull, Director – Policy, at (804) 698-4092.

RiverRenew Program Update

2023 General Assembly Report

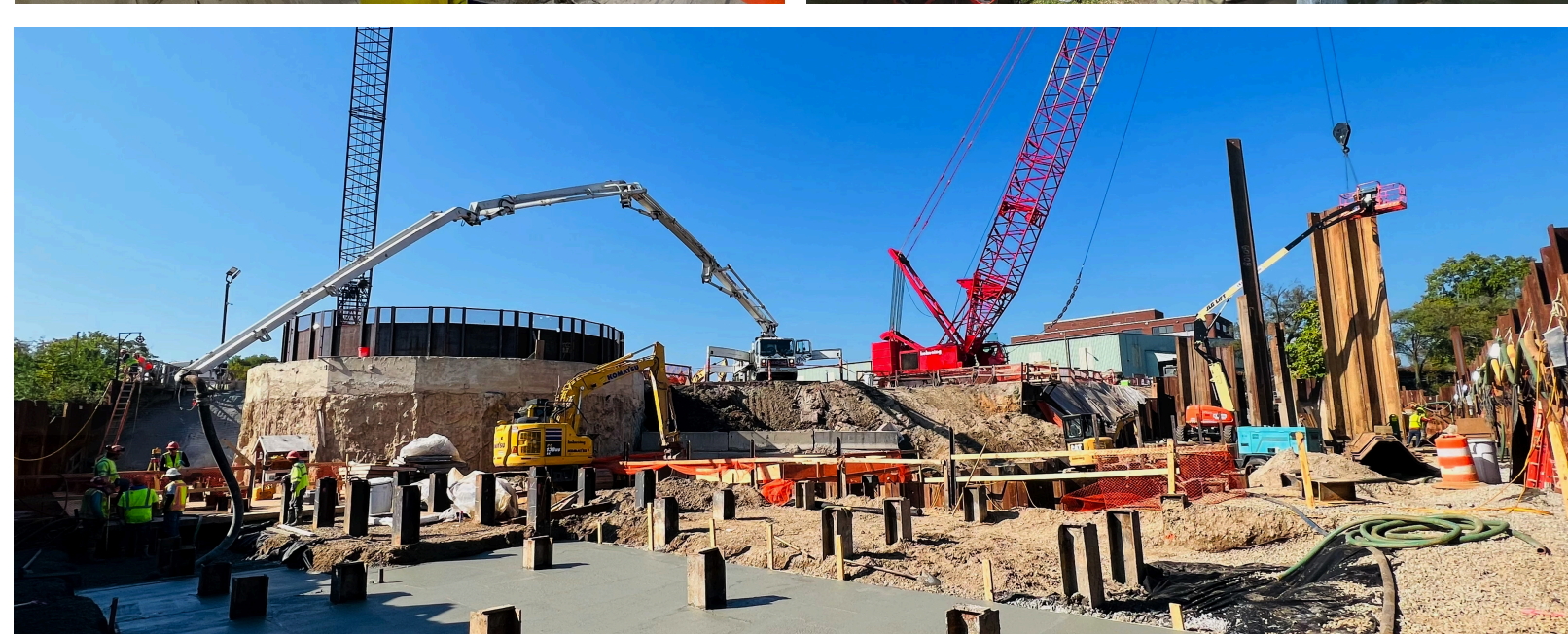
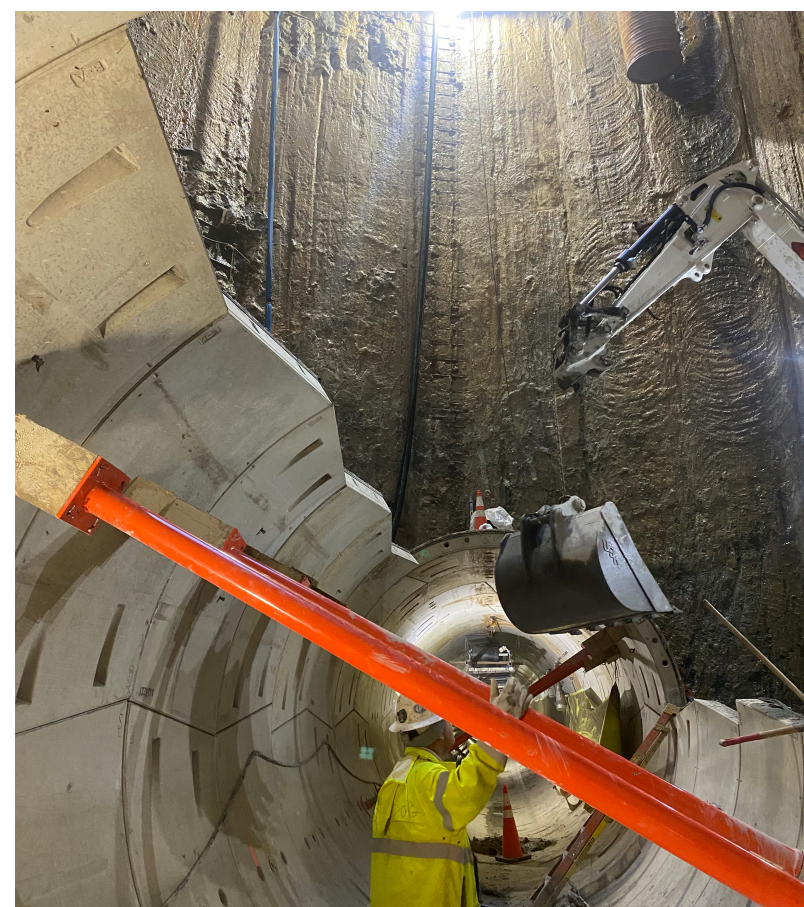


Learn More at
[RiverRenew.com](https://www.RiverRenew.com)





**RiverRenew crews
continue to make
significant progress.**





703.721.3500 | 1800 Limerick Street | Alexandria, Virginia 22314

AlexRenew.com f @ in

October 17, 2023

via Electronic Mail

Richard Doucette, Director
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Northern Regional Office
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, VA 22193-1453

Subject: 2023 General Assembly Report for Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) Permit VA0025160

Dear Mr. Doucette:

In accordance with Part V, Paragraph I.5 of the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) Permit VA0025160, effective through June 30, 2026, AlexRenew is submitting this letter to report on the implementation status of the approved 2018 Long Term Control Plan Update (LTCPU), now branded as RiverRenew. Once operational, RiverRenew will prevent 130 million gallons of combined sewage from polluting the Potomac River and its tributaries each year.

As noted in the 2022 General Assembly Report and subsequent correspondence with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) in April, August, and September this year, RiverRenew is 60 percent complete. However, the program has encountered unavoidable delays that will prevent its completion by the statutory deadline of July 1, 2025. AlexRenew is in the process of requesting legislation from the General Assembly to extend the statutory deadline, while working diligently to complete RiverRenew.

Over the last five (5) years, AlexRenew has been working relentlessly on delivering this valuable initiative that will ultimately benefit the community, state, and the waterways that connect us. To date, AlexRenew has invested \$365 million in RiverRenew, which has employed over 200 Virginia firms. Our state-of-the-art tunnel boring machine has constructed over one (1) mile of 12-foot-wide tunnel 100 feet below the ground. Approximately one (1) mile of tunnel remains to be constructed to connect the existing combined sewer outfalls to AlexRenew's wastewater treatment plant. Additionally, crews are progressing work on a six (6) foot-wide sewer interceptor; 12-story-deep, 65-foot-wide pumping station; and massive drop shafts, that when complete will function as a system to capture combined sewer overflows. The attached flyer highlights the significant progress made to date as we continue to build toward healthier waterways.

RiverRenew includes four major projects. Three of these projects are complete and all efforts are currently focused on completing the Tunnel System Project. This report will primarily provide updates

specific to the Tunnel System Project but will also include a programmatic discussion on cost and funding.

AlexRenew is grateful for the Commonwealth’s ongoing partnership as we implement RiverRenew. We are especially appreciative of your support in extending the statutory deadline and funding through the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund (VCWRLF) and state grants, which will assist in offsetting impacts to our ratepayers.

RiverRenew Tunnel System Project Progress

Since the 2022 General Assembly Report, AlexRenew has made significant progress on the implementation of the Project, which is illustrated as Figure 1, and is currently 50 percent complete. Table 1 summarizes major Project milestones for each Project site/component.



Figure 1. RiverRenew Tunnel System Project

Table 1. Summary of Tunnel System Project Progress and Major Milestones

Project Site/ Component	Proposed Facilities	Major 2023 Milestones	Construction % Complete
Waterfront Tunnel	2.2-mile-long, 12-foot-diameter tunnel constructed by tunnel boring machine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6,300 feet of tunnel constructed 69,500 tons of soil excavated 	71
AlexRenew	65- and 35-foot-diameter Pumping and Screening shafts (respectively); diversion chamber; 20 and 180 MGD pumping stations; superstructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pumping shaft base slab fully constructed Pumping shaft liner underway Permanent concrete structures support of excavation and construction ongoing 	18
Pendleton St	35-foot-diameter shaft; diversion chamber; overflow structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaft excavation completed Shaft base slab completed Shaft liner construction ongoing Permanent concrete structures construction ongoing 	41
Royal St	37-foot-diameter shaft; diversion chamber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaft excavation completed Support of excavation for near surface structures completed 	23
Hooffs Run	0.5-mile-long, 6-foot-diameter sewer interceptor; diversion chamber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversion chamber and junction chamber construction ongoing 1,030 feet of sewer interceptor installed 	48

RiverRenew Tunnel System Project Schedule

Like most large infrastructure initiatives underway across the country, the project has been unable to avoid the long-term negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. These global events continue to cause supply chain issues and unprecedented inflation, hindering our ability to efficiently procure necessary resources to support construction activities.

As noted in our April and September 2023 letters, these impacts have resulted in delays that will make it impossible to complete the project by the July 1, 2025 statutory deadline. While we navigate these ongoing challenges, we are seeking an extension to the statutory deadline outlined in the 2017 Virginia Acts of Assembly Chapters 826 and 827 (SB 898). We believe doing so would ensure we effectively complete the CSO project under no penalty.

A general schedule for each Project site/component is illustrated in Figure 2. It should be noted that the project is currently 90 days behind schedule, with the delays impacting work at the AlexRenew site. Work at the satellite sites continues to remain on schedule.

technical components, sharing major milestones, and educating all Alexandrians about the largest infrastructure project in our city's history.

AlexRenew hosted a total of six (6) Community Listening Sessions at the Project sites in March and September, sharing an overview of construction progress and upcoming work activities with over 100 community members. Additionally, AlexRenew held a public hearing in May to support its capital and operating budget and proposed rate adjustment.

AlexRenew continued engagement with the RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group and City-Council-AlexRenew Board Workgroup, which met five (5) and three (3) times throughout 2023, respectively. The Stakeholder Advisory Group will be reconstituted under the AlexRenew Board of Directors in February 2024. The Workgroup will continue to consist of Mayor Justin Wilson, Vice Mayor Amy Jackson, and AlexRenew Board Chair John Hill and Vice Chair James Beall.

Throughout May and June, AlexRenew hosted tunnel tours for over 200 Alexandrians to get a first-hand look at this often-unseen underground infrastructure.

Look-ahead and Closing

Major activities for next year include completion of the Waterfront Tunnel, construction of the permanent concrete structures at Royal and Pendleton Streets, completion of the Hooffs Run Interceptor, and construction of the pumping station and associated facilities at AlexRenew.

AlexRenew remains grateful for the Commonwealth's continued support and assistance as we build towards healthier waterways. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me directly at (703) 785-8037 or justin.carl@alexrenew.com.

Sincerely,



Justin Carl
AlexRenew General Manager and CEO

Cc: Sarah Sivers, Water Permits and Planning Manager
Susan Mackert, Environmental Specialist II, Senior II, VDEQ
Caitlin Feehan, AlexRenew Chief Administrative Officer
Emily Baker, City of Alexandria, Deputy City Manager
Preston Bryant, McGuire Woods Consulting

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