

## Piney Point Updates August 2022



**CONTACT:** DEP Press Office, 850-245-2112, [DEPNews@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:DEPNews@FloridaDEP.gov)

### Piney Point Update – Aug. 26, 2022

To begin the closure work of the OGS-South, the court-appointed receiver completed removal of the rainwater from the pond that has accumulated over the last several months. Rainwater removal began on Aug. 13, 2022, and concluded early on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022. This water was being conveyed to Port Manatee, which has been standard practice since 2011. **This is not process water. It does not come in contact with the ponded process water contained in the separate lined compartments and is managed separately at the site.**

As part of the closure process, the OGS-South pond will be modified so that it will no longer accumulate rainwater and eliminate the need for future rainwater releases to Port Manatee.

DEP and the court-appointed receiver have independently tested the water, and current water sampling results indicate the concentrations of total nitrogen range from 2.3 to 3.5 mg/L. At this level, the nutrient loading to the bay is expected to be less than 0.1% of the federally adopted annual Total Maximum Daily Load for Lower Tampa Bay. The court-appointed receiver will continue to monitor water quality to ensure the released rainwater is in full compliance with the water quality requirements.

To more fully assess and communicate water quality information to the public, in advance of the permitted rainwater release, DEP has also communicated with key stakeholders and initiated sampling at key locations in Tampa Bay and continues to do so throughout this process. Background and future sampling data can be found on [DEP's webpage](#).

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

- The site received **0.46 inches** of rain this week. Piney Point has received approximately **33.7 inches** of rain since Jan. 1, 2022. In response to rain events, clean, non-contact stormwater will be conveyed as needed through the site's permitted outfall along Buckeye Road. Samples are collected at the permitted outfall during runoff events to confirm the stormwater meets the requirements of its permit.
- The current storage capacity for additional rainfall at the site is approximately **27.4 inches**. This capacity is expected to change with rainfall amounts, as well as adjusted water management activities at the site.

- 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, **33,043,385 gallons** have been transferred. Spray evaporation also continues in the NGS-North compartment and a secondary evaporation system was installed at the site to aid in water removal efforts.
- Approximately 262 million gallons are currently held within the NGS-South compartment. Pond level readings are expected to fluctuate due to a host of factors, including wind/associated waves in the pond, rainfall and water management activities.

Residents can find the latest information on the status of the site, response activities and water quality at [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate](https://protectingflorida.together.gov/PineyPointUpdate).

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/329dafa>



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## Piney Point Update – Aug. 19, 2022

To begin the closure work of the OGS-South, the court-appointed receiver is removing all rainwater from the pond that has accumulated over the last several months. Rainwater removal began on Aug. 13, 2022, and is expected to continue until early next week. This water is being conveyed to Port Manatee, which has been standard practice since 2011. **This is not process water. It does not and will not come in contact with the ponded process water contained in the separate lined compartments and is managed separately at the site.**

As part of the closure process, this pond will be modified so that it will no longer accumulate rainwater and eliminate the need for future rainwater releases to Port Manatee.

DEP and the court-appointed receiver have independently tested the water, and current water sampling results indicate the concentrations of total nitrogen range from 2.3 to 3.5 mg/L. At this level, the nutrient loading to the bay is expected to be less than 0.1% of the federally adopted annual Total Maximum Daily Load for Lower Tampa Bay. The court-appointed receiver will continue to monitor water quality to ensure the released rainwater is in full compliance with the water quality requirements.

To more fully assess and communicate water quality information to the public, in advance of the permitted rainwater release, DEP has also communicated with key stakeholders and initiated sampling at key locations in Tampa Bay and continues to do so throughout this process. Background and future sampling data can be found on [DEP's webpage](#).

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

- The site received **0.83 inches** of rain this week. Piney Point has received approximately **33.24 inches** of rain since Jan. 1, 2022. In response to rain events, clean, non-contact stormwater will be conveyed as needed through the site's permitted outfall along Buckeye Road. Samples are collected at the permitted outfall during runoff events to confirm the stormwater meets the requirements of its permit.
- The current storage capacity for additional rainfall at the site is approximately **26.5 inches**. This capacity is expected to change with rainfall amounts, as well as adjusted water management activities at the site.
- 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, **32,379,885 gallons** have been transferred. Spray evaporation also continues in the

NGS-North compartment and a secondary evaporation system was installed at the site to aid in water removal efforts.

- Approximately 262 million gallons are currently held within the NGS-South compartment. Pond level readings are expected to fluctuate due to a host of factors, including wind/associated waves in the pond, rainfall and water management activities.

Residents can find the latest information on the status of the site, response activities and water quality at [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate](https://protectingfloridatogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate).

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## **Piney Point Update – Aug. 12, 2022**

Today, the court-appointed receiver executed the contract with Forgen, LLC to begin closure of the first compartment at the former Piney Point facility, the OGS-South.

To prepare for the first step of this work, the court-appointed receiver must remove all rainwater from this pond that has accumulated over the last several months. Rainwater removal is scheduled to begin this weekend and will last approximately six days. This water will be conveyed to Port Manatee, which has been standard practice since 2011. **This is not process water. It does not and will not come in contact with the ponded process water contained in the separate lined compartments and is managed separately at the site.**

As part of the closure process, this pond will be modified so that it will no longer accumulate rainwater and eliminate the need for future rainwater releases to Port Manatee.

DEP and the court-appointed receiver have independently tested the water, and current water sampling results indicate the concentrations of total nitrogen range from 2.3 to 3.5 mg/L. At this level, the nutrient loading to the bay is expected to be less than 0.1% of the federally adopted annual Total Maximum Daily Load for Lower Tampa Bay. The court-appointed receiver will continue to monitor water quality to ensure the released rainwater is in full compliance with the water quality requirements.

To more fully assess and communicate water quality information to the public, in advance of the permitted rainwater release, DEP has also communicated with key stakeholders and initiated sampling at key locations in Tampa Bay and will continue to do so throughout this process. Background and future sampling data can be found on [DEP's webpage](#).

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

- The site received **1.03 inches** of rain this week. Piney Point has received approximately **32.41 inches** of rain since Jan. 1, 2022. In response to rain events, clean, non-contact stormwater will be conveyed as needed through the site's permitted outfall along Buckeye Road. Samples are collected at the permitted outfall during runoff events to confirm the stormwater meets the requirements of its permit.
- The current storage capacity for additional rainfall at the site is approximately **26.1 inches**. This capacity is expected to change with rainfall amounts, as well as adjusted water management activities at the site.

- 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, **31,708,385 gallons** have been transferred. Spray evaporation also continues in the NGS-North compartment and a secondary evaporation system was installed at the site to aid in water removal efforts.
- Approximately **262 million gallons** are currently held within the NGS-South compartment. Pond level readings are expected to fluctuate due to a host of factors, including wind/associated waves in the pond, rainfall and water management activities.

Residents can find the latest information on the status of the site, response activities and water quality at [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate](https://ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate).

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## **Piney Point Update – Aug. 5, 2022**

To ensure Forgen, LLC is able to begin work promptly on the OGS-South compartment after the contract is executed, the court-appointed receiver has been receiving construction materials from his suppliers that are needed for the planned closure work, including high-density polyethylene (HDPE) liner, HDPE piping and dewatering drains. In addition, the receiver has also been receiving specialty sand and soil that is being stored onsite in preparation for construction to begin in the OGS-S compartment.

DEP will continue performing its stringent regulatory oversight of the facility to ensure this is the last chapter in the long history of Piney Point. DEP is committed to working with the receiver to ensure that progress toward closure is done as expeditiously as possible.

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

- The site received **0.97 inches** of rain this week. Piney Point has received approximately **31.38 inches** of rain since Jan. 1, 2022. In response to rain events, clean, non-contact stormwater will be conveyed as needed through the site's permitted outfall along Buckeye Road. Samples are collected at the permitted outfall during runoff events to confirm the stormwater meets the requirements of its permit.

- The current storage capacity for additional rainfall at the site is approximately **27.2 inches**. This capacity is expected to change with rainfall amounts, as well as adjusted water management activities at the site.
- 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, **31,043,985 gallons** have been transferred. Spray evaporation also continues in the NGS-North compartment and a secondary evaporation system was installed at the site to aid in water removal efforts.
- Approximately **262 million gallons** are currently held within the NGS-South compartment. Pond level readings are expected to fluctuate due to a host of factors, including wind/associated waves in the pond, rainfall and water management activities.

Residents can find the latest information on the status of the site, response activities and water quality at [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate](https://ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate).

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