

Piney Point Updates June 2021



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

CONTACT: DEP Press Office, 850-245-2112, DEPNews@FloridaDEP.gov

Piney Point Update - June 30, 2021

The Piney Point site received more than two inches of rain yesterday and continues to receive rain today. The stormwater management system for the site is functioning as designed, managing the runoff from the rain event. Rainwater runoff is being conveyed through HRK's permitted outfall to the drainage ditch along Buckeye Road. **This is rainwater, not wastewater from the containment areas onsite. Those discharges ceased on April 9 and have not resumed.** Manatee County and HRK have collected samples at the permitted outfall to confirm the stormwater meets the requirements of its permit.

The water levels in the ponds onsite are within safe levels, and DEP remains committed to its stringent oversight of HRK's water management activities at the Piney Point site.

Key status updates and response activities:

- Approximately 213 million gallons are held within the NGS-South compartment. Pond level readings are expected to fluctuate due to a host of factors, including rainfall, water management activities and wind/associated waves in the pond.
- DEP continues to monitor and sample surrounding waterways following previous discharges. DEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#) details sampling locations and corresponding results to evaluate any environmental impact. Results will continue to be posted as soon as they are available.
- DEP is also working collaboratively with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) and local governments to cover more area and collect more data. For a comprehensive view of all sampling in Tampa Bay related to Piney Point, visit TBEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#).
- DEP continues working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Department of Health to [monitor algal blooms and water quality](#). FWC continues to receive reports of fish kills in Manatee, Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties. FWC is the lead agency on red tide and will continue to update conditions on their [website](#). For more information on red tide, please visit [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov](#).
- Residents can find the latest information on the status of the site and response activities at [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate](#).

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CONTACT: DEP Press Office, 850-245-2112, DEPNews@FloridaDEP.gov

Piney Point Update - June 25, 2021

While the site received approximately two inches of rain this past week, all ponds onsite continue to be maintained within safe water levels. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will continue its oversight of HRK's onsite water management activities to control water levels, respond to rainfall events and support water treatment. HRK will work with their contractors and DEP to adjust water management strategies as needed through continuous monitoring of current and future weather conditions.

Key status updates and response activities:

- Approximately 200 million gallons are held within the NGS-South compartment. Pond level readings are expected to fluctuate due to a host of factors, including rainfall, water management activities and wind/associated waves in the pond.
- DEP continues to monitor and sample surrounding waterways following previous discharges. DEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#) details sampling locations and corresponding results to evaluate any environmental impact. Results will continue to be posted as soon as they are available.
- DEP is also working collaboratively with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) and local governments to cover more area and collect more data. For a comprehensive view of all sampling in Tampa Bay related to Piney Point, visit TBEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#).
- DEP continues working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Department of Health to [monitor algal blooms and water quality](#). FWC continues to receive reports of fish kills in Manatee, Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. FWC is the lead agency on red tide and will continue to update conditions on their [website](#). For more information on red tide, please visit [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov](#).

Residents can find the latest information on the status of the site and response activities at [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate](#).

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CONTACT: DEP Press Office, 850-245-2112, DEPNews@FloridaDEP.gov

Piney Point Update - June 18, 2021

The site received approximately 1.2 inches of rain this past week. All ponds onsite continue to be maintained within safe water levels. DEP will continue its oversight of HRK's onsite water management activities to safely control water levels, respond to rainfall events and support water treatment. The department remains prepared to adjust water management strategies as needed through continuous monitoring of current and future weather conditions.

Key status updates and response activities:

- Approximately 205 million gallons are held within the NGS-South compartment. Pond level readings are expected to fluctuate due to a host of factors, including rainfall, water management activities and wind/associated waves in the pond.
- DEP continues to monitor and sample surrounding waterways following previous discharges. DEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#) details sampling locations and corresponding results to evaluate any environmental impact. Results will continue to be posted as soon as they are available.
- DEP is also working collaboratively with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) and local governments to cover more area and collect more data. For a comprehensive view of all sampling in Tampa Bay related to Piney Point, visit TBEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#).
- DEP continues working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Department of Health to [monitor algal blooms and water quality](#). FWC continues to receive reports of fish kills in Manatee, Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. FWC is the lead agency on red tide and will continue to update conditions on their [website](#). For more information on red tide, please visit [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov](#).

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

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CONTACT: DEP Press Office, 850-245-2112, DEPNews@FloridaDEP.gov

Piney Point Update - June 14, 2021

DEP continues its oversight of the on-going efforts to manage the water within the lined storage basins onsite to safely control water levels, respond to rainfall events and support water treatment. The department remains prepared to adjust water management as needed through continuous monitoring of current and future weather conditions.

Key status updates and response activities:

- Approximately 208 million gallons are held within the NGS-South compartment. Pond level readings are expected to fluctuate due to a host of factors, including rainfall, water management activities and wind/associated waves in the pond.
- DEP continues to monitor and sample surrounding waterways following previous discharges. DEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#) details sampling locations and corresponding results to evaluate any environmental impact. Results will continue to be posted as soon as they are available.
- DEP is also working collaboratively with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) and local governments to cover more area and collect more data. For a comprehensive view of all sampling in Tampa Bay related to Piney Point, visit TBEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#).
- DEP continues working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Department of Health to [monitor algal blooms and water quality](#). FWC continues to receive reports of fish kills near Port Manatee and the Skyway Bridge, as well as other parts of Tampa Bay closer to the mouth and along coastal beaches of Pinellas County. FWC is the lead agency on red tide and will continue to update conditions on their [website](#). For more information on red tide, please visit ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov.

Residents can find the latest information on the status of the site and response activities at ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate.

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Piney Point Update - June 11, 2021

DEP's two contracted innovative technology companies continue water treatment efforts at the site. Water management activities remain ongoing to safely control water levels, respond to rainfall events and support water treatment.

DEP remains committed to its stringent regulatory oversight of the facility and to holding HRK accountable for its legal responsibilities as site owner and operator, which includes managing the site to ensure the integrity of the stack system in order to protect public health, safety, and the welfare of the public and the environment.

Key status updates and response activities:

- Approximately 203 million gallons are held within the NGS-South compartment. Pond level readings are expected to fluctuate due to a host of factors, including water management activities and wind/associated waves in the pond.
- DEP continues to monitor and sample surrounding waterways following previous discharges. DEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#) details sampling locations and corresponding results to evaluate any environmental impact. Results will continue to be posted as soon as they are available.
- DEP is also working collaboratively with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) and local governments to cover more area and collect more data. For a comprehensive view of all sampling in Tampa Bay related to Piney Point, visit TBEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#).
- DEP continues working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Department of Health to [monitor algal blooms and water quality](#). FWC has received reports of fish kills near Port Manatee and the Skyway Bridge, as well as other parts of Tampa Bay closer to the mouth and along coastal beaches of Pinellas County. FWC is the lead agency on red tide and will continue to update conditions on their [website](#). For more information on red tide, please visit [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov](#).

Residents can find the latest information on the status of the site and response activities at [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate](#).

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CONTACT: DEP Press Office, 850-245-2112, DEPNews@FloridaDEP.gov

Piney Point Update - June 9, 2021

Following the expiration of the DEP Amended Emergency Final Order related to the Piney Point (Eastport) Facility and the Governor's Executive Order, [DEP sent a letter to HRK Holdings, L.L.C.](#), notifying them that even though the potential catastrophic failure of the gypstack system has been minimized at this time, HRK is expected to meet its legal responsibilities as site owner and operator, to manage the site to ensure the integrity of the stack system and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and the environment.

DEP remains committed to its stringent regulatory oversight of the facility and to holding HRK accountable for the recent events at the site through all possible legal means.

Key status updates and response activities:

- Approximately 201 million gallons are held within the NGS-South compartment. Pond level readings are expected to fluctuate due to a host of factors, including water management activities and wind/associated waves in the pond.
- DEP continues to monitor and sample surrounding waterways following previous discharges. DEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#) details sampling locations and corresponding results to evaluate any environmental impact. Results will continue to be posted as soon as they are available.
- DEP is also working collaboratively with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) and local governments to cover more area and collect more data. For a comprehensive view of all sampling in Tampa Bay related to Piney Point, visit TBEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#).
- DEP continues working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Department of Health to [monitor algal blooms and water quality](#). FWC is currently investigating reports of fish kills near Port Manatee and the Skyway Bridge, as well as other parts of Tampa Bay closer to the mouth and along coastal beaches of Pinellas County. FWC is the lead agency on red tide and will continue to update conditions on their [website](#). For more information on red tide, please visit [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov](#).

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Piney Point Update - June 4, 2021

DEP continues its oversight of the on-going efforts to manage the water within the lined storage basins onsite to safely control water levels, respond to rainfall events and support water treatment. The department remains prepared to adjust water management as needed through continuous monitoring of current and future weather conditions.

Key status updates and response activities:

- Approximately 201 million gallons are held within the NGS-South compartment. Pond level readings are expected to fluctuate due to a host of factors, including water management activities and wind/associated waves in the pond.
- DEP continues to monitor and sample surrounding waterways following previous discharges. DEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#) details sampling locations and corresponding results to evaluate any environmental impact. Results will continue to be posted as soon as they are available.
- DEP is also working collaboratively with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) and local governments to cover more area and collect more data. For a comprehensive view of all sampling in Tampa Bay related to Piney Point, visit TBEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#).
- DEP continues working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Department of Health to [monitor algal blooms and water quality](#). FWC is currently investigating reports of fish kills in Boca Ciega, Pass-a-Grille and St. Pete Beach. FWC is the lead agency on red tide and will continue to update conditions on their [website](#). For more information on red tide, please visit [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov](#).

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Piney Point Update - June 2, 2021

HRK and on-site contractors transferred water earlier this week into the NGS-South compartment in preparation of possible rainfall. This is part of the on-going effort to manage the water within the lined storage basins onsite to safely control water levels, respond to rainfall events and support water treatment.

Key status updates and response activities:

- Approximately 201 million gallons are held within the NGS-South compartment. Pond level readings are expected to fluctuate due to a host of factors, including water management activities and wind and associated waves in the pond.
- DEP continues to monitor and sample surrounding waterways following previous discharges. DEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#) details sampling locations and corresponding results to evaluate any environmental impact. Results will continue to be posted as soon as they are available.
- DEP is also working collaboratively with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) and local governments to cover more area and collect more data. For a comprehensive view of all sampling in Tampa Bay related to Piney Point, visit TBEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#).
- DEP continues working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Department of Health to [monitor algal blooms and water quality](#). There are no reported fish kills in this area. FWC is the lead agency on red tide and will continue to update conditions on their [website](#). For more information on red tide, please visit [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov](#).

Residents can find the latest information on the status of the site and response activities at [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate](#).

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