

Piney Point Updates October 2022



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

Piney Point Update – Oct. 28, 2022

The court-appointed receiver and its contractor, Forgen, LLC, continue closure work at the OGS-South compartment. Contractors are grading and shaping the area so that it will no longer accumulate rainwater.

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 **no rain** this week. Piney Point has received approximately **49.5 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 **23.8 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 and to date, **38,387,971 gallons** have been transferred. Spray evaporation also resumed in the NGS-North compartment.
- Approximately **269 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://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/334e5ca>



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Piney Point Update – Oct. 21, 2022

The necessary conveyance of rainwater from the OGS-South compartment to Port Manatee has ceased and the court-appointed receiver and its contractor, Forgen, LLC, have resumed closure work at the compartment. Contractors are grading and shaping the area so that it will no longer accumulate rainwater and eliminate the need for future rainwater releases to Port Manatee.

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 **0.13 inches** this week. Piney Point has received approximately **49.5 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 **23.6 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 and to date, **37,714,271 gallons** have been transferred. Spray evaporation also resumed in the NGS-North compartment.
- Approximately **270 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.

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Piney Point Update – Oct. 14, 2022

In order to continue progress with closure of the OGS-South compartment, the court-appointed receiver resumed the conveyance of rainwater from the OGS-South compartment to Port Manatee on Oct. 7, 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 is being 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 were 0.84 mg/L. At this level, the nutrient loading to the bay is expected to be well below 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, 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](#).

While every effort is underway to ensure closure of this pond as quickly as possible, should additional heavy rains continue, the conveyance of additional rain water to Port Manatee may be necessary.

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

- The site received **0.18 inches** of rain this week. Piney Point has received approximately **49.3 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 **21.7 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 and to date, **37,059,071 gallons** have been transferred. Spray evaporation also resumed in the NGS-North compartment.
- Approximately **272 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://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/331defd>



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Piney Point Update – Oct. 8, 2022

Further site evaluations this week confirmed there is no identified damage to the compartment systems or any other water management concerns at the Piney Point site. However, the site did accumulate just over 6 inches of additional rain associated with Hurricane Ian. In order to continue progress with closure of the OGS-South compartment, the court-appointed receiver resumed the conveyance of rainwater from the OGS-South compartment to Port Manatee.

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 is being 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 were 0.84 mg/L. At this level, the nutrient loading to the bay is expected to be well below 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, 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](#).

While every effort is underway to ensure closure of this pond as quickly as possible, should additional heavy rains continue, the conveyance of additional rain water to Port Manatee may be necessary.

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

- The site received **no rain** this week. Piney Point has received approximately **49.2 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 **21.7 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 and to date, **36,389,371 gallons** have been transferred. Spray evaporation also resumed in the NGS-North compartment.
- Approximately **289 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.

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<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/33120bb>