



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1

5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100
BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

Date: *Dated as shown on electronic signature below*

Subj: Inspection Report
Clean Water Act - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination
System ("NPDES")
Warner Village Water District WWTF

From: Grace Beery, Life Scientist **Beery, Grace** Digitally signed by Beery, Grace
Date: 2023.11.22 11:01:19 -05'00'

Thru: Solanch Pastrana-Del Valle, Environmental Engineer

To: File

I. Facility Information

- A. *Facility Name:* Warner Village Water District WWTF
- B. *Facility Location:* 55 West Joppa Rd
Warner, NH 03278
- C. *Facility Contacts:* Ray Martin, District Administrator
(603) 3444-5431, wateradmin@warner.nh.us

Chuck Come, Plant Superintendent
chucksautoservices@hotmail.com
- D. *NPDES ID No.:* NHG580007

II. Background Information

- A. *Date of inspection:* October 18, 2023
- B. *Weather Conditions:* About 50°F, partly cloudy
- C. *US EPA Representatives:*
Grace Beery, Solanch Pastrana-Del Valle
- D. *State/Local Representatives:* Teresa Ptak, New Hampshire Department of
Environmental Services ("NHDES")
- E. *Federally Enforceable Requirements Covered During the Inspection:*
NPDES Permit No. NHG580007 ("Permit"), previously No. NH0100498

F. Previous Enforcement Actions: EPA Order for Compliance Docket No. CWA-AO-R01-FY17-15 (“2017 Order”)(“AOC”)

III. Type and Purpose of Inspection

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) staff, Grace Beery and Solanch Pastrana-Del Valle (“EPA Inspectors”) conducted an announced Compliance Evaluation Inspection of the Warner Village Water District Wastewater Treatment Facility (“WWTF”) (the “Facility”) located in Warner, New Hampshire to evaluate compliance under the 2022 Small Wastewater Treatment Facility General Permit (“Permit”) (effective date April 1, 2022).

IV. Facility Description

The Facility’s design capacity is 0.11 million gallons per day (“MGD”) but averages between 0.035 – 0.045 MGD. Roughly 215 households send wastewater to the Facility. The collection system spans about 2 miles and has a single pump station. The Facility does not accept septage and has no major industrial users. The Facility was built in 1972 and was opened in 1974.

Influent wastewater passes through grit removal equipment in the headworks building. Wastewater next enters the oxidation ditches for secondary treatment, then on to clarifiers for solids removal. A splitter box between oxidation ditches and the clarifiers adds PAC for phosphorous removal. The wastewater is then disinfected using liquid chlorine and dechlorinated via sodium bisulfite. Treated effluent wastewater is carried via a temporary pipe to the groundwater discharge testing location on the opposite side of the Warner River. Excess treated effluent is discharged directly to the Warner River via Outfall 001.

On June 16, 2023, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (“NHDES”) issued the Facility a temporary groundwater discharge permit. The Facility is currently testing the feasibility of groundwater discharge on their property.

V. Inspection

The inspection was announced by Ms. Beery on October 16, 2023, via email.

A. Opening Conference

Grace Beery and Solanch Pastrana-Del Valle (“EPA Inspectors”) arrived at approximately 9:00 AM. Teresa Ptak accompanied the EPA Inspectors as a state representative of NHDES. Ray Martin and Chuck Come were present as the representatives from Warner Village Water District.

Ms. Beery and Ms. Pastrana presented their credentials to Mr. Martin and Mr. Come and explained the purpose of the inspection in evaluating compliance with the Permit and the 2017 Order. Mr. Martin and Mr. Come provided the following information:

The Facility is staffed by Mr. Martin, Mr. Come, and a third operator. Mr. Martin works part-time. The third operator is in training and has been working at the Facility for less than a year. The Facility is fully staffed, though they occasionally hire a 4th part-time staff member to assist on additional projects. Mr. Martin and Mr. Come have been working at the Facility for 10 years and 15 years, respectively.

The Facility has historically discharged effluent with copper levels above the Permit's limits. Upon receiving a copper limit in the 2017 permit, the Facility began looking into the possibility of discharging to groundwater to meet the permit's copper limits. Currently, the Facility is testing the feasibility of groundwater discharge on its property across the river.

The Facility anticipates needing upgrades to the treatment plant in conjunction with groundwater discharge if the ongoing study proves groundwater discharge to be feasible. The Facility is currently working with contractors on a study to determine what facility upgrades will be needed. The Facility will also be starting a copper optimization study soon and will be attempting to identify lead or copper pipes within their collection system.

The Facility currently does not have a continuous operation and maintenance plan as required by their permit and has not been submitting annual CMOM reports. The Facility also has not been submitting quarterly reports since 2019 as required by their 2017 AOC. The inspectors told the Facility that they expect compliance with the permit and AOC.

B. Facility Tour

Mr. Martin and Mr. Come lead the inspectors through a walk of the treatment plant starting at the headworks (slide 2), where bar racks and grit removal are located. From here, influent is pumped to the oxidation ditches (slide 3).

The influent then flows to a splitter box where PAC is added for phosphorous removal (slide 4), and flow is directed into one of two clarifiers (slide 5). Typically, only one clarifier is online at a time (slide 6), and the other is sometimes used as a holding tank for thickening waste (slide 7,8). The Facility switches between which clarifier they use for treatment a few times per year, and each clarifier is cleaned three to four times per year.

After this, the wastewater flows to the chlorine contact chamber (slide 9), where it is in contact with liquid chlorine for about thirty minutes and dechlorinated via sodium bisulfite. Effluent that is discharged to the groundwater test site passes through a screen to remove grease and oil and is then pumped via a temporary pipe (slide 10, 11) to the discharge site on the property. A flow meter monitors the amount of effluent that is directed to the groundwater test site. An overflow pipe in the contact chamber carries excess treated effluent to the outfall and is discharged directly into the Warner River (slide 10).

Sludge is stored in a building on-site, and the supernatant is stored in tanks below a grass cover (slide 12). Sludge is pumped into receiving trucks via a pump structure near the

Facility parking lot (slide 13). Sludge from the Facility is sent to the Concord WWTF about twice per month.

Finally, the group entered the in-house laboratory (slide 14), where Mr. Come conducts testing for pH, residual chlorine, dissolved oxygen (DO), and process control. All other testing is conducted by a third-party laboratory, Eastern Analytical.

C. Closing Conference

The group met outside the in-house laboratory to conduct the closing conference. The inspectors thanked Mr. Martin and Mr. Come for their time and discussed likely follow-up regarding the copper issue. Ms. Ptak said that she would send the Facility more information regarding what the CMOM plan should contain and an example of the CMOM annual reports. She also said she would send them a copy of their most recent AOC quarterly reports from 2019. The Inspectors departed at about 11:30 AM.

Unless otherwise noted, this report describes conditions at the facility/property as observed by EPA inspector(s), and/or through records provided to and/or information reported to EPA inspector(s) by facility representatives and as understood by the inspector(s). This report may not capture all operations or activities ongoing at the time of the inspection. This report does not make final determinations on potential areas of concern. Nothing in this report affects EPA's authorities under federal statutes and regulations to pursue further investigation or action.

Inspection Photo Album

Facility: Warner Village Wastewater Treatment Facility

EPA Inspectors: Grace Beery
Solanch Pastrana-Del Valle

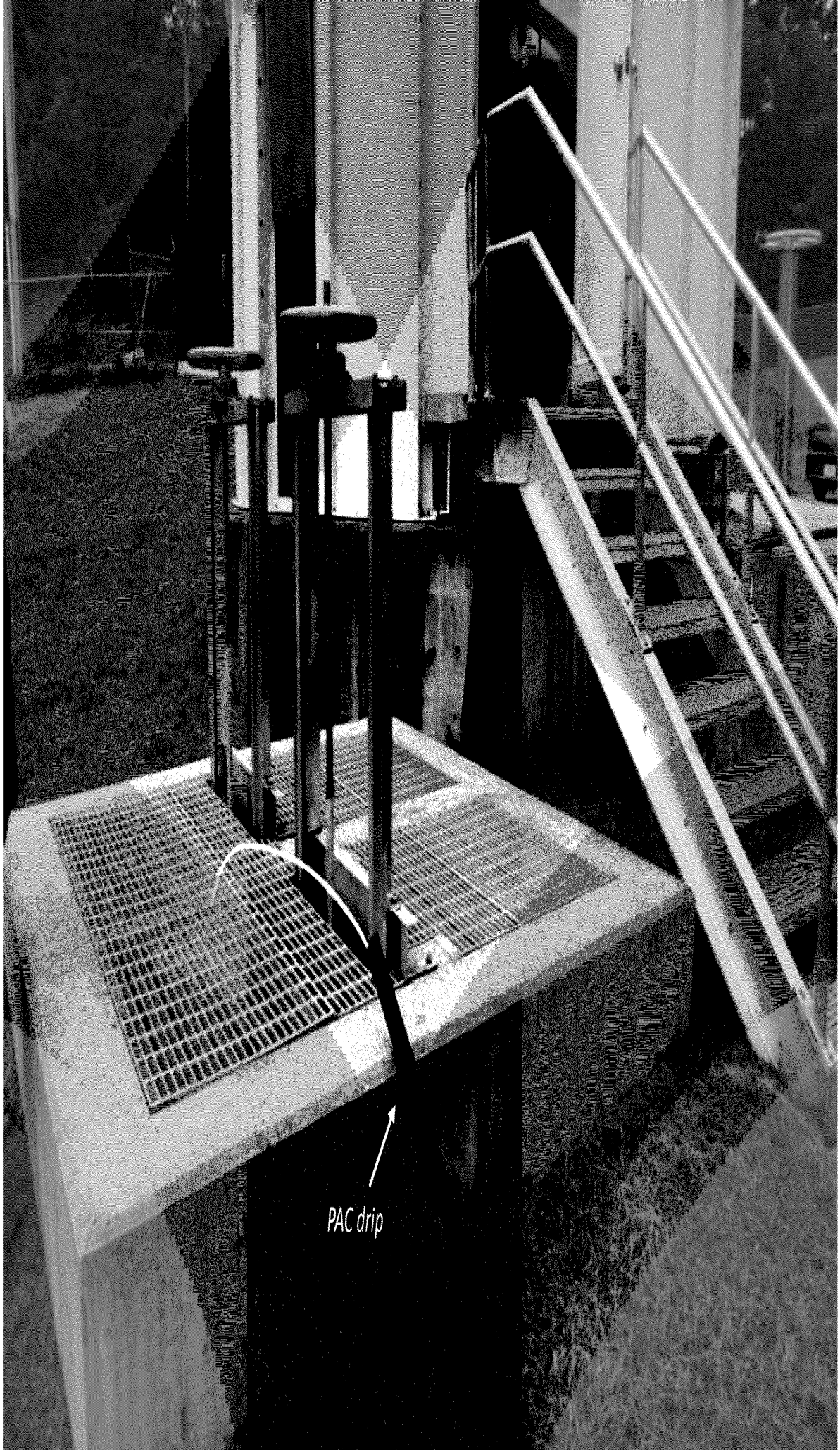
NPDES Permit #: NHG580007



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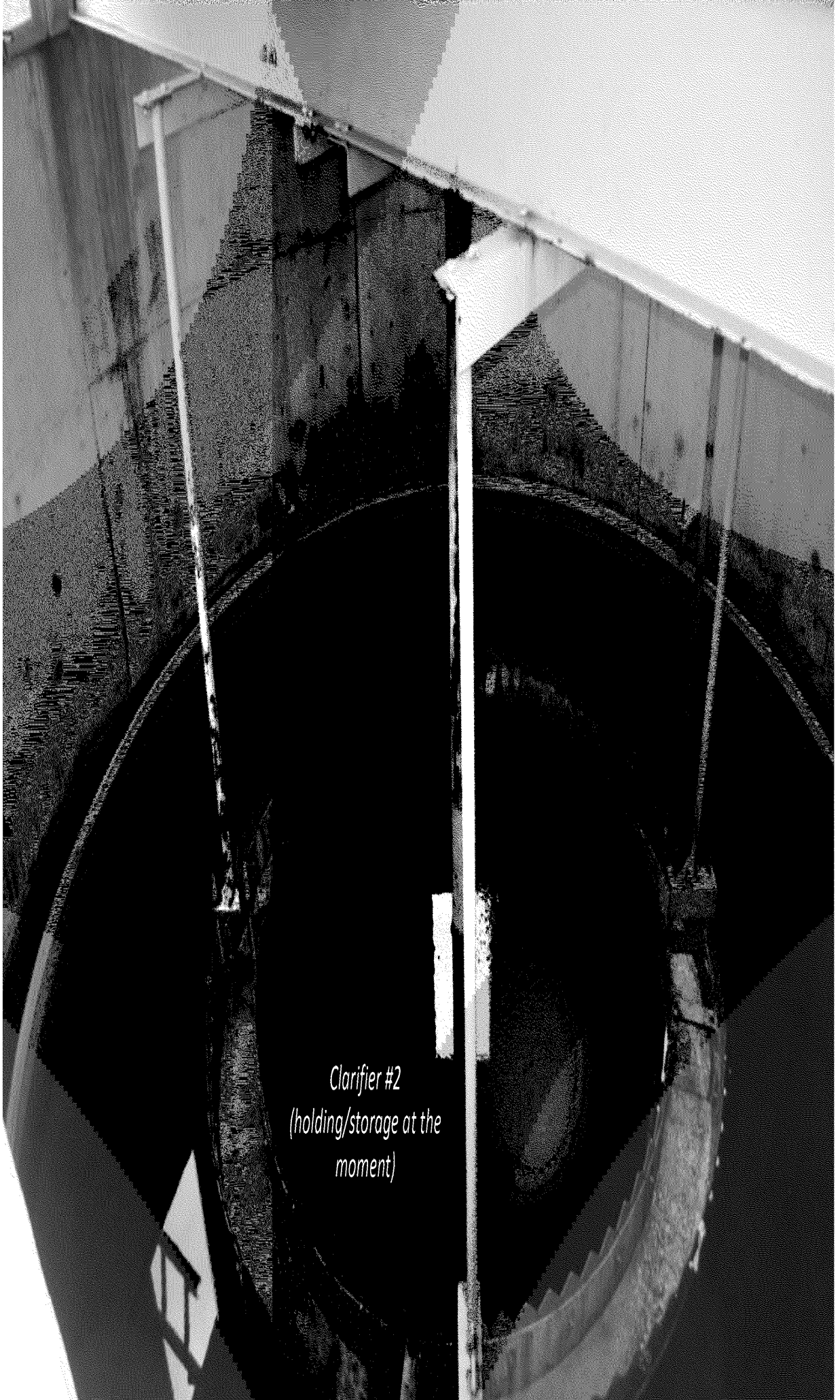
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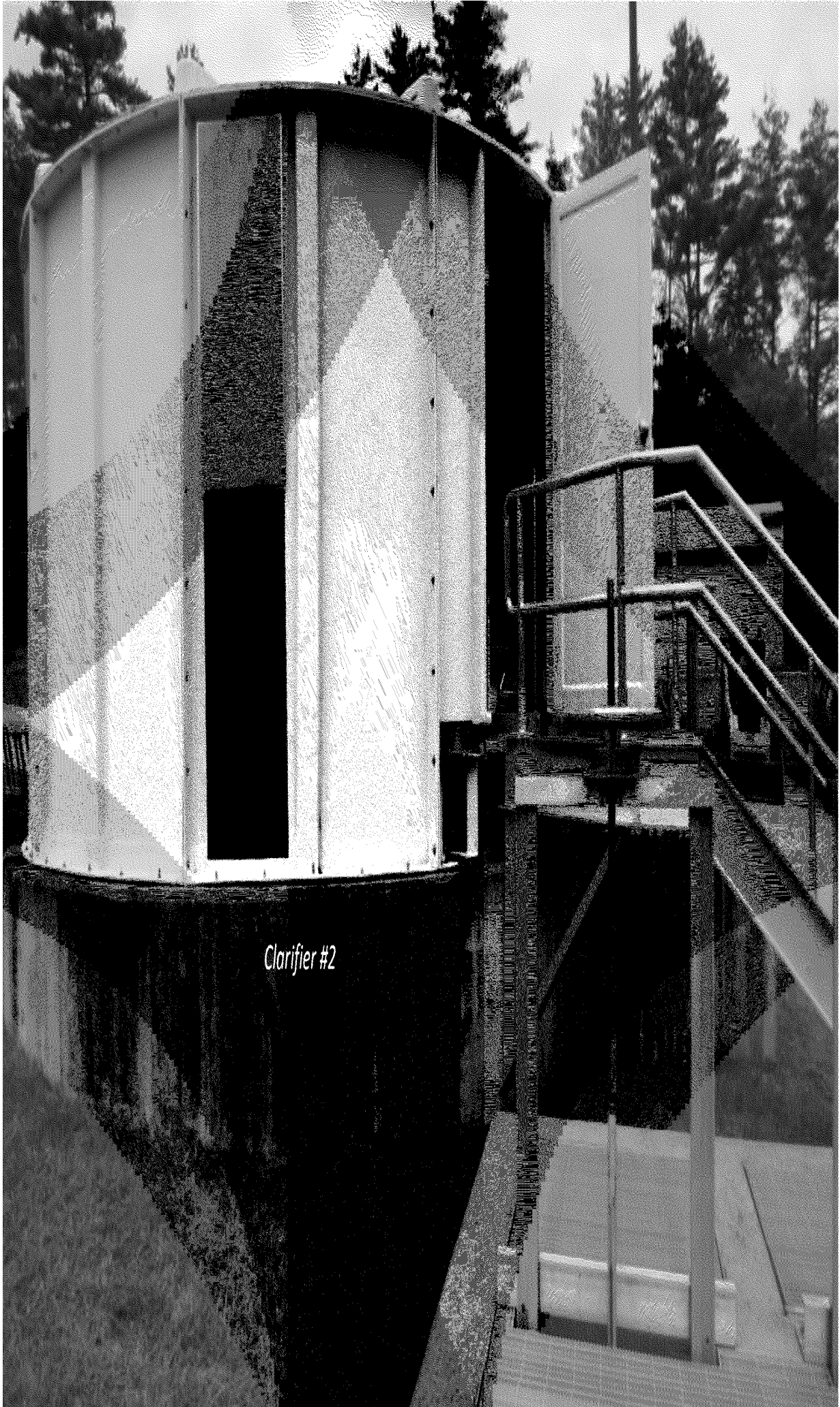
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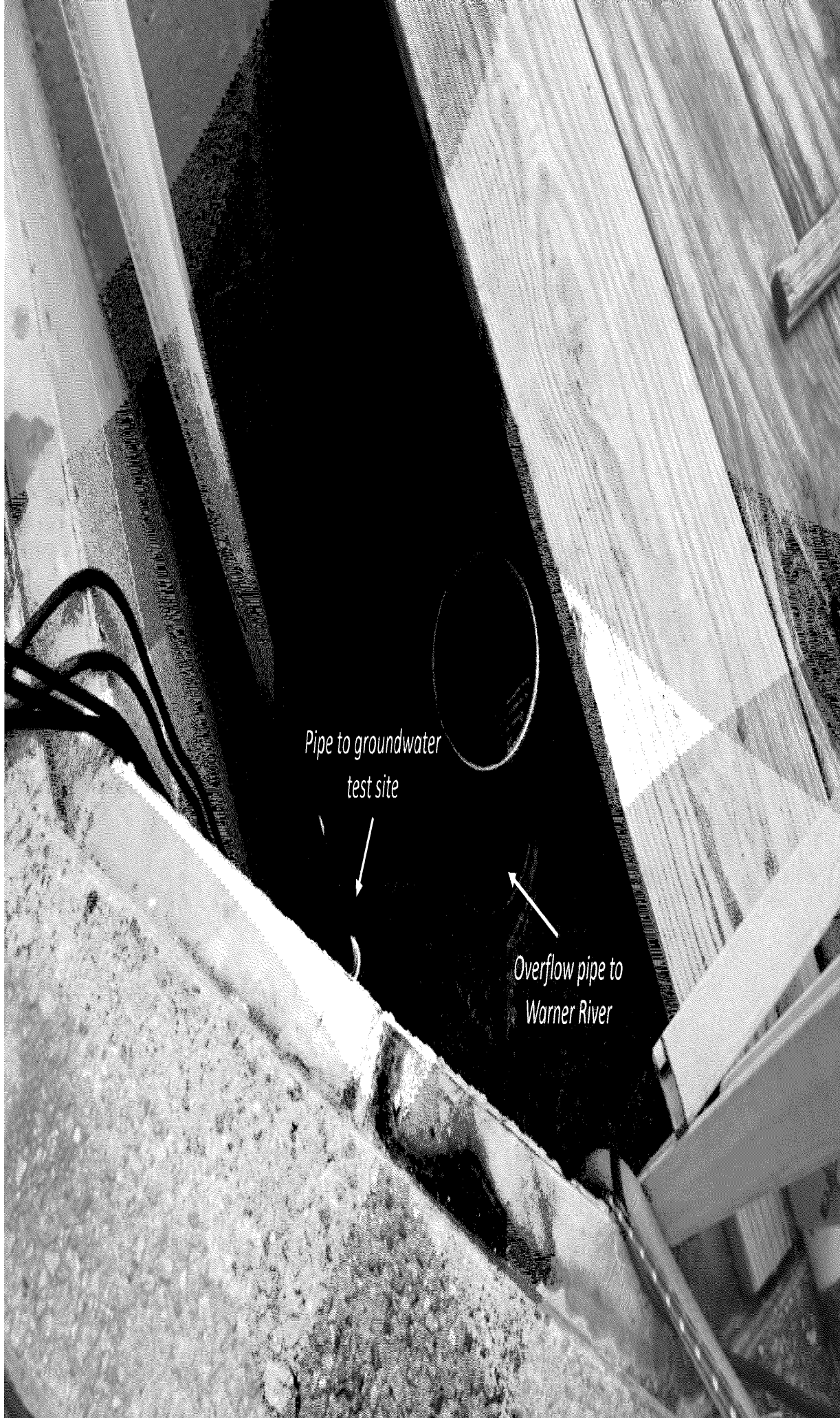
*Clarifier #2
(holding/storage at the
moment)*



Clarifier #2



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