

# Fratello & Amico, Inc.

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May 16, 2025

Ms. Julie Pape  
Project Coordinator  
Tidewater Inc.  
6625 Selnick Drive, Ste A  
Elkridge, MD 21075

**RE: WV014, Report of Oil Water Separator Cleaning and Preventative Maintenance Inspection, T. Bailey Brown  
USARC, 363 Luby St., Graton WV 26354**

Dear Ms. Pape,

We are pleased to submit the following report regarding services performed at the above facility.

**Background and Investigation:** We originally visited the facility on Friday, March 2, 2012 and inspected the various sections of the washrack's combination sedimentation tank and oil water separator system. The primary chamber (grit chamber) was full, with 51" of sludge. So full in fact, the sludge has half filled the pipe to the secondary chamber and has almost filled second chamber and has accumulated 17" of sludge in the third and final chamber.

We proposed to clean the tanks by first removing any free oil discovered on the surface via skimming and absorption. Next, the oily bottom sludge from the first chamber will be placed into fifty-five gallon steel open top 17-H drums for future disposal via your DRMO contract. Once cleaned, the water layer in the second and third stages will be filtered and pumped into the primary chamber. The second and third stages would then be cleaned same as the first, with sludge placed into fifty-five gallon steel drums. The cleaned separator will be backwashed with the discharge side (tertiary chamber) refilled first with fresh waster, followed by the secondary and primary chambers - as required to operate the system. This proposal was accepted and the work was scheduled.

We mobilized the cleaning crew to the center on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, to start the cleaning process. We immediately encountered an unexpected problem. As we began the dewatering of the OWS chambers, raw sewage flowed back into the tertiary and secondary chambers from the City of Grafton's sanitary sewer system.

While we were able to mechanically plug the piping, we did not have the chemicals or the PPE on hand to address the biohazard issue.

We returned on April 2<sup>nd</sup> equipped with appropriate PPE and completed the cleaning of the OWS. A total of eight fifty-five gallon drums of sludge were generated during the cleaning process.

On Monday, April 9, 2012, we returned to investigate the issue with the backflow of sewage sludge. A review of the facility drawings indicated that there should be a difference of 10.86" between the manhole invert and the OWS invert, however, photographs of levels within the manhole and OWS seem to show that the liquid levels are perhaps as close as 2" to 3".

Using a self leveling laser grade level, we measured the elevations of the OWS, inverts, and pipes within the City of Grafton manhole. We discover that there was only a 0.15' difference in elevation from the OWS outfall and the invert within the City manhole.

In order to provide at least a 1/8" per foot fall, we modified the fittings on the effluent SDR35 piping, adding a 45 and a sanitary Wye inverted with a removable cap. Upon completion of modification, the mechanical plug was removed to check for backflow and washrack was flow tested through the OWS. We did not receive and backflow from the sewer and all flow now is as originally designed.

In February 2021, the facility requested a Oil Water Separator service and inspection as the system was beyond the five year interval. A proposal was prepared and submitted and subsequently approved.

We mobilized to the facility on the morning of Thursday, April 15, 2021. The three chambers of the system were accessed by the removal of two aluminum covers.

Free floating oil was removed from the chambers and the water phase was filtered and processed through the system until the bottom of each chamber was visible. Significant sludge was encountered in the primary chamber, less in the secondary and tertiary chambers.

The sludge was removed and containerized into three steel DOT-17H 55 gallon drums for future disposal via DRMO and the EVR REP was notified of the accumulation. She acknowledged included them on the waste inventory.

Upon the completion of the cleaning and inspection of each chamber, the tertiary and secondary chambers were filled with fresh water. After which, flow was initiated from the wash pad and OMS floor drain systems to ensure unrestricted flow and to refill the primary chamber, and the unit was placed back in service.

On Friday, March 7, 2025, we were contacted by Tidewater, the regional PM contractor regarding the servicing of seven of the Oil Water Separators in the region. A proposal was prepared and submitted for review, and was subsequently approved.

As it had been four years since the last service, we visited each facility the week of May 6<sup>th</sup> in order to gauge the accumulation of sludge. Four sites were found to have light accumulations and were scheduled for the week of May 12<sup>th</sup>, the other three have heavy accumulations and were scheduled for the week of June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Site Service Performed:** We mobilized to the facility on the morning of Tuesday, May 13, 2025. The three chambers of the system were accessed by the removal of two aluminum covers.

Free floating oil was removed from the chambers and the water phase was filtered and processed through the system until the bottom of each chamber was visible. Minimal sludge was encountered in the primary chamber, less in the secondary and tertiary chambers.

Upon the completion of the cleaning and inspection of each chamber, the tertiary and secondary chambers were filled with fresh water. After which, flow was initiated from the wash pad and OMS floor drain systems to ensure unrestricted flow and to refill the primary chamber.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:** The OWS system is working properly with no known issues.

**Attachment:** Photographs of the Service

<b><u>Page</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
3	OWS Area Prework
4	OWS Covers Removed
5	Primary OWS Chamber
6	Secondary/Tertiary Chambers
7	Primary Chamber Dewatered
8	Secondary/Tertiary Dewatered – Weir Inspectable
9	Wash Pad Flow Test with Green Dye
10	Flow Followed to Sanitary Sewer

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our services to your facility. If you have any questions, please feel free to call at any time.

Sincerely,

Fratello and Amico, Inc.

*Raymond B. Chain, III*

Raymond B. Chain, III  
President















