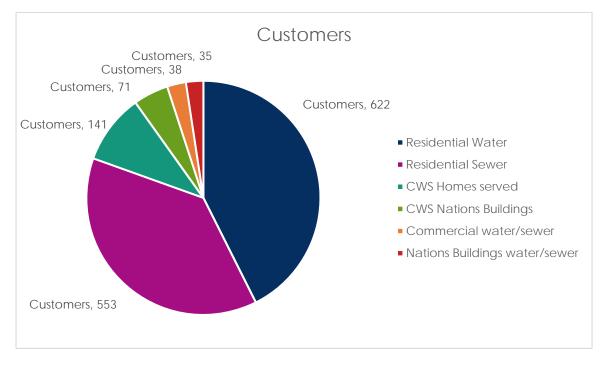
# Utilities, Wells, Wastewater and Septic

This service group has a unified goal of supplying, managing, and maintaining water and wastewater systems for the Oneida Nation. By accomplishing this, it is a first line of defense to disease prevention and ensures a safe and adequate water source for our community. Our sovereignty as a Nation is strengthened by our ability to provide these systems to meet our future needs while preserving our natural resources.

Status report of the service group's Three Year Outcomes

### Outcome # 1

#### Provide Efficient Customer Service



The Utilities, Wells, Wastewater, and Septic service group provide services to the Nation's buildings, residential homes, Elder Services, and Housing. In addition to the water and wastewater services, they also provide plumbing repairs and installations, preventive maintenance on pumphouses and lift stations, and billing for 975 refuse/recycling customers. The ability of this group to provide efficient and effective service to such a varied customer base is due to the committed and dedicated employees that provide these services. This team includes licensed Master and Journeyman Plumbers, Well Installers, Septic System Technicians, and Water/Wastewater operators, and a lab technician. These licensed personnel are required to earn continued education credits through various trainings in order to maintain their credentials. Cross training is occurring as part of succession planning and provide back-up personnel for all the services.

Safe drinking water and proper wastewater treatment is critical to all aspects of a healthy community and protections of its natural resources. Through the efforts of this area, the spread of water borne diseases is minimized. This service group also strengthens the Nation's sovereignty by developing and maintaining both water services and wastewater treatment services through the Nation's own infrastructure. They achieve compliance with EPA, DNR, and IHS regulations as well as local zoning ordinances and receive high scores on agency reviews and audits. The Oneida Nation is also recognized as the authority having jurisdiction to implement a residential septic system inspection process. Maintaining this

high level of performance has allowed for increased levels of funding from the Indian Health Services on numerous projects.

**The Utilities Department** will be continuing with lateral televising and lateral repairs, which was a funded project by HIS, BE-15-J62. Completion is expected by September FY 19. The **Wells, Septics, and Plumbing Department** has completed their phase of a project to inspect all septic systems under their jurisdiction and work with other entities of the Nation such as Zoning to maintain a data base of the inspections. The department will continue to work with Zoning and DPW personnel assigned to the project to develop and maintain the database.

#### Outcome # 2

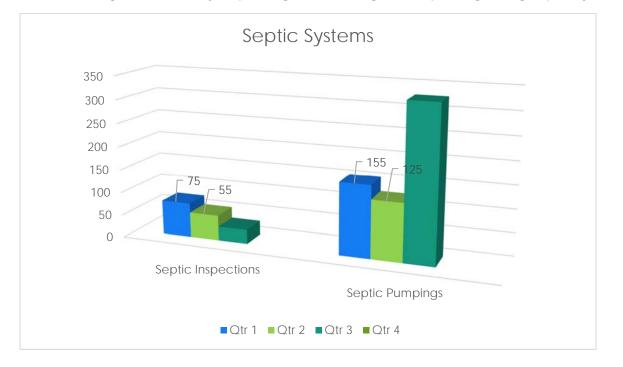
Ensure safe drinking water and environmentally safe wastewater to the Oneida Nation Public Community System on a daily basis



There are numerous services, preventive maintenance measures, and emergency repairs that are performed by this service group to ensure safe drinking water and environmentally safe wastewater is maintained for the community. This Spring, the Plumbers assisted homeowners with basement flooding issues. Damaged water heaters were replaced with new ones and the source of the flooding was addressed by breaking up the ice and working with the Heavy Equipment operators to excavate the ditches Healthcare and Housing are the top two priorities per BC resolution #10-24-18-C. This service group ensures safe water is provided not only to the health center, but to many other Nation buildings and residential homes. Water samples are collected at various facilities and tested in the lab to guarantee that our water is within regulatory parameters. New homes that are constructed are served by having water supply and wastewater disposal facilities installed. Funding for these projects is obtained from Indian Health Service Scattered Sites which minimizes the home owners expense and saves money for the Nation's contribution future costs for replacement of septic systems and wells. The planning, scheduling, documenting material and labor, invoicing, and final reporting are critical functions to obtaining outside funding and efficiently completing this work.

**During 4<sup>th</sup> quarter**, this service group will continue to work on the HIS project to repair sewer water lines as identified from the leak detection project. A scope of work is near completion for the Rolling Hills water tower painting renovation capex project. The request for proposal will be sent out by October with scheduled painting of the tower to occur next Spring/Summer. Installation of POWTS systems will occur as weather allows and work on Elder Village will be completed. Training personnel and obtaining CEU's to meet licensing requirements will be on-going.

Outcome # 3



Protect the groundwater by inspecting, maintaining, and replacing failing septic systems.

## Use the space below to enter the service group's accomplishments over 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the fiscal year related to reaching the outcome above (i.e. positives, things the service group is proud, brags). **150 words max**

There has been a total of 151 septic systems inspected and 608 septic pumpings year to date. Establishing the 3-year inspection program ensures the Nation has jurisdiction and identifies needed repairs which protects our groundwater. Septic pumping services are critical to many homes and with the recent investment that Nation has made with a new pumper truck, customers will be able to be served more efficiently. The new Utilities Septic pumping technician is doing an excellent job given the tremendous responsibility of this position. Training and obtaining certifications have occurred as scheduled for this position. This serves the membership in a positive manner because of the numerous septic and holding tanks needing to be maintained. The charges for pumping services are less than what an external entity could provide due to the Nation owning and operating the wastewater treatment plant.

*IHS Scattered Sites Project BE-18-K34 has increased the project funding from \$210,000 to \$954,000.* Homes to be served has increased from seven (7) to thirty-seven (37) homes. The Nation has identified 15 homes to serve and additional homes will be identified as the project progresses. In total, 37 scattered site homes will be served by this project including the construction of wells, installation of water systems, adding community water and sewer

service lines, and installation of septic systems. These accomplishments all support the Nation's housing and healthcare priorities. The extensive funding for the septic system inspections and replacements from IHS is due to the work this service group accomplishes and the quality of work they achieve.

*IHS POWTS Improvement Project BE-1-G98 was funded with \$335,000 IHS.* The funding was obtained to address an estimated over 500 private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS) needing inspections and identify maintenance, repair and failing septic systems.

The Primary goals to reach the outcome of safe and compliant systems are to:

1. Inventory of Nations POWTS sites by address

- 2. Inspect, document sites and enlist under Nation's jurisdiction
- 3. License to inspect sites with POWTS
- 4. License to inspect sites with private wells
- 5. Soil testing & basement evaluation for new or existing sites.
- 6. Encourage tribal members to be under the tribal jurisdiction
- 7. Provide education to tribal members for POWTS preventative maintenance.
- 8. Provide WSLH water samples for tribal member and address metals as needed

9. Maintain database for all Nations POWTS.