

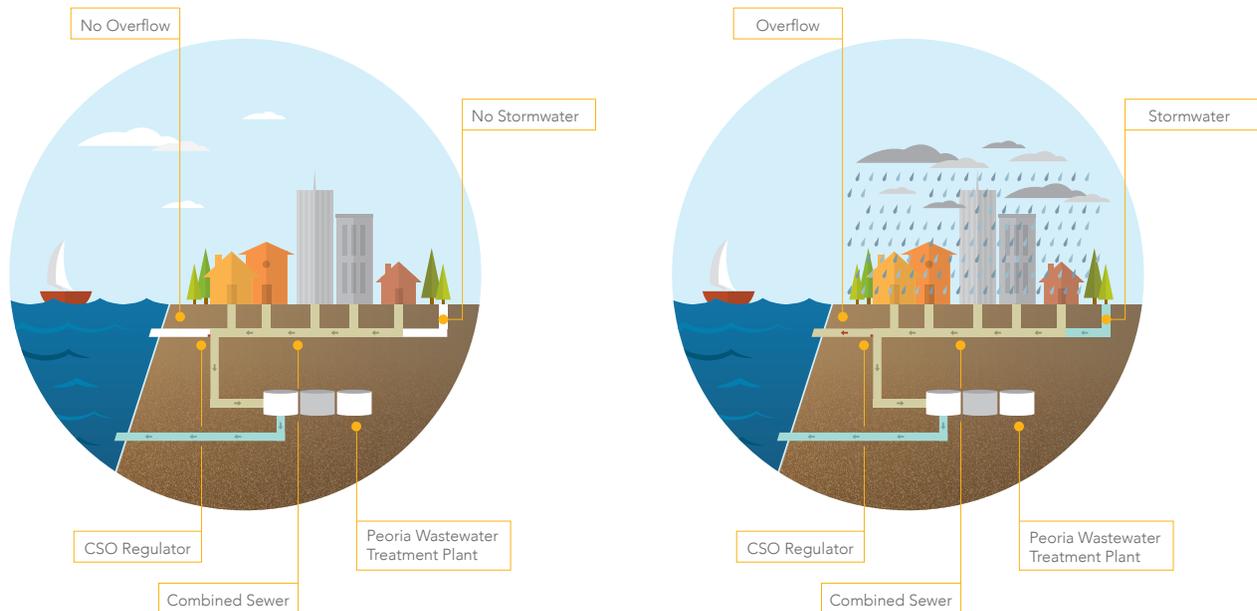
Our City faces an unfunded federal mandate to dramatically reduce combined sewer overflows

U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA have ordered the City of Peoria to develop a long-term plan to reduce the incidence of overflows from combined stormwater/sanitary sewers, which discharge untreated sewage into the Illinois River during heavy rains and snowmelt events.

The Clean Water Act makes it unlawful to discharge any pollutant from a "point" source—e.g., an industrial pipe, a manmade ditch, a sewer system—into U.S. waters unless a permit is obtained through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. The City of Peoria has long maintained an NPDES permit that regulates discharges of untreated overflows resulting from combined stormwater/sanitary sewers into the Illinois River.

The City is currently experiencing between 20 and 30 combined sewer overflow (CSO) events per year, on average. Due to evolving regulations, our municipality is required to develop a Long-Term Control Plan to reduce the incidence of CSOs. We must work to bring that number down as close to zero as possible. Since about 2007, Peoria has been diligently working to prepare a responsible Long-Term Control Plan that meets Clean Water Act requirements and protects the health of the Illinois River.

HOW COMBINED SEWERS FUNCTION



During dry weather...

Peoria's combined stormwater/sanitary sewers work much like a modern sanitary sewer. All sewage from homes and businesses is sent to the treatment plant by a "regulator," or small dam, in the sewer.

During wet weather...

Between 20 and 30 times a year, stormwater from rain or melting snow overloads these sewers. They don't have enough capacity to carry wastewater to GPSD's treatment plant. So untreated sewage flows over the internal dam into the Illinois River.