

October 1989

Volume 22 Number 5  
USPS-349-750

# Pollution Equipment News<sup>®</sup>

HAZARDOUS WASTE • AIR • WATER • WASTEWATER • OCEAN

ESTABLISHED 1968

## Autodialer Improves Plant Efficiency

The Wastewater Treatment Plant at Oneida, New York, is now running at higher efficiency thanks to their autodial alarm system.

The system is programmed to monitor power failure and high sewage wet well level at the wastewater treatment plant, which is unattended at night. During periods when the plant is not staffed, the alarm system is in place to call for help if either of the alarm conditions are met.

According to Gary Cole, Chief Operator of the treatment facilities, "The autodialer has been very cost effective. We've eliminated one shift and many hours of overtime." He added, "It let us save \$10,000 last year through reduction in the time that our plant is staffed."

When the facility is unattended, the autodialer is set up to call a preprogrammed list of phone numbers until one of the numbers is answered. When an alarm call is completed, the system reports the station identification and alarm condition in plain English. Acknowledgement of the alarm is accomplished simply by pressing a button on the called phone.

Cole stated, "We didn't have much trouble this year, but last year we had six power outage and high flow alarms. Operating personnel were called by the units and told that emergency conditions existed. Designated staff members were able to get to the facilities in time to take remedial action."

The autodialer continues calling even if an alarm condition returns to normal — intermittent or short duration alarm conditions do not go unnoticed. Once tripped, calling is continued until acknowledged. Nuisance calls are avoided by varying the alarm response times.

Cole added, "The system is a 100% improvement over our previous equipment setup. The unit replaced a tape dialer that could only call one number. We've also had several personnel changes. We simply reprogrammed new phone numbers into the system without having to call for factory service."