

# SPLASH SHOT





**T**his spring massive flooding from rapid snowmelt and intense rainfall inundated the Midwest. Several water resource recovery facilities (WRRFs) were hit hard, but the dedicated operators restored them to service as quickly as possible.

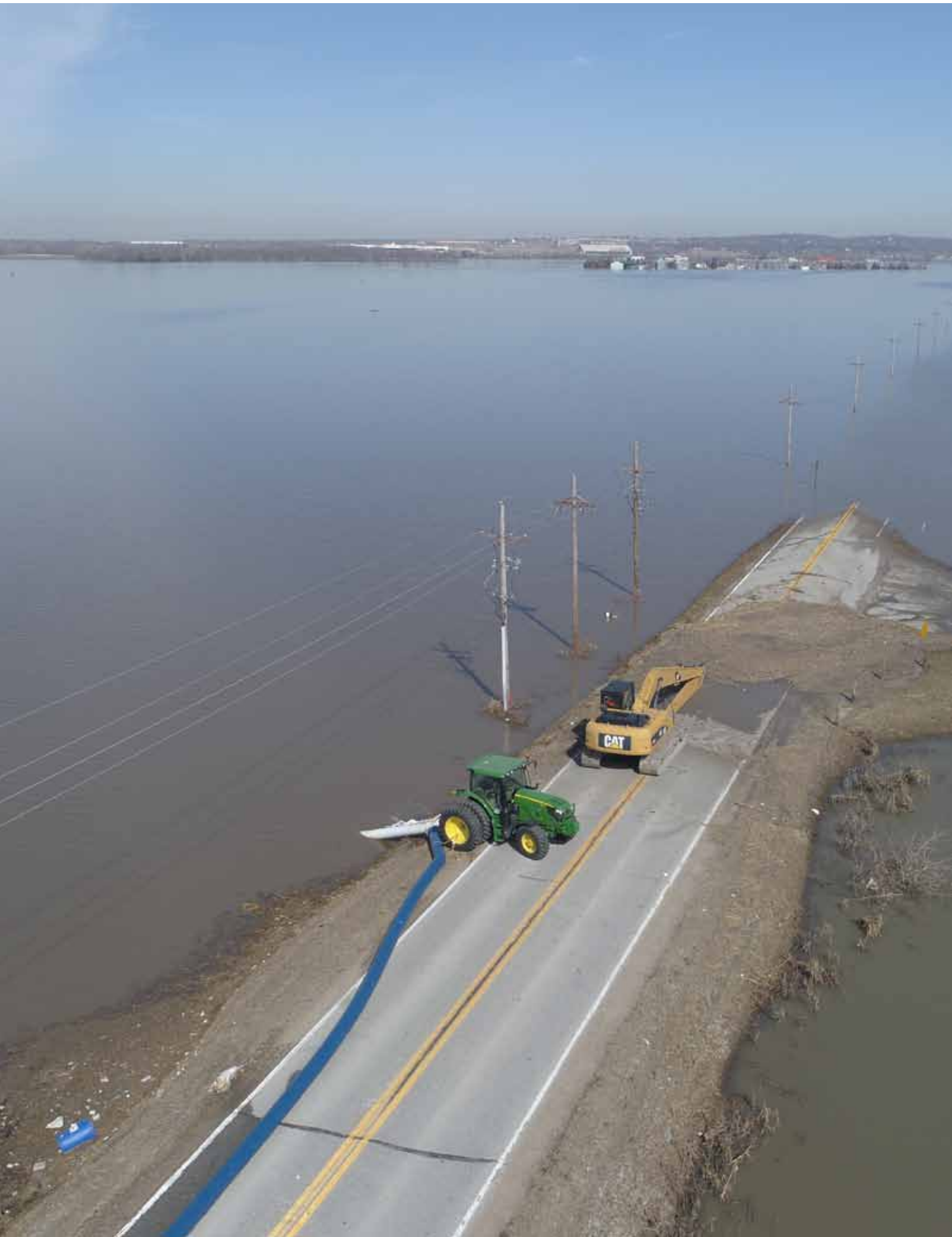
In Omaha, Neb., the Missouri River Water Resource Recovery Facility was overwhelmed by its namesake river. The federal levee along the river only protected the secondary treatment facility. A berm around the primary clarifiers and digester complex was overtopped and water poured into the site. Operations staff was successful in maintaining treatment processes while an emergency berm was constructed directly in the floodwaters around the facility. Omaha Public Works Department



**T**o maintain primary treatment processes, operators at the Missouri River Water Resource Recovery Facility built a barrier of HESCO baskets in the flood waters. These baskets are containers that are filled with sand to create a flood barrier. Once the barrier was in place, crews were able to pump the water out of the facility. Additional sandbagging efforts were performed to protect vital electrical and mechanical facilities during the flooding. City of Omaha Public Works Department










**T**he Papillion Creek Water Resource Recovery Facility, also in Omaha, Neb., was hit much harder, as it is located just north of the confluence of the Missouri River and Platte River. Beginning on March 15, the road to the facility as well as the facility itself flooded as the Platte River reached record flood levels. Crews were unable to even access the facility until March 29.

During the flood, parts of the facility were under 2.2 m (8 ft) of water, according to the *Omaha World Herald*. The flood damaged all process systems (pumps, motors, and electrical components) as well as the road.

This facility serves approximately 450,000 people with an average daily flow of 227 ML/d (60 mgd). The facility was completely off-line from March 15 until April 17, when the facility resumed primary treatment. Disinfection systems were brought on-line on May 1 and full primary and secondary treatment was resumed on May 16. City of Omaha Public Works Department 

Thanks to contributors David Sykora, Papillion Creek Water Resource Recovery Facility Plant Manager; Mike Arends, Missouri River Water Resource Recovery Facility Manager; and Scott A. Aurit, Associate Vice President and Wastewater Section Manager at HDR Inc. (Omaha, Neb.).