PRIVATE PROPERTY PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE

The WEF Collection System Committee is primarily interested in successfully operating programs for work performed on the privately-owned portion of the lateral line and inflow/infiltration sources located on private properties. We want to assemble policy descriptions, enabling resolutions or ordinances, funding details, public education/information materials, standard design or construction details, etc., for programs that have proven to be successful. This specific program documentation will be made available to other wastewater utilities through a virtual private property program on-line library.

While we are interested in "planned" programs, we want to first concentrate on programs that have been demonstrated to have been effectively implemented. Planned programs will be included in the virtual library after the program has been implemented and actual experience with the program is available.

Descriptions of private property programs that were previously implemented, but considered "failed" or only "partially successful" will be included if the reasons for the problems with the program have been identified and can be included as a "lessons learned" component of the virtual library.

Interview Conducted by WEF Representative: Name: _____

Date: _____

1. General Information

Utility Name & Location: Aberdeen WWTP, Aberdeen, WA

Contact Name & Details: Mike Myers, Wastewater Systems Manager
1205 W. State St.
Aberdeen, WA 98520

Utility Characteristics:

6100	Number of Customers
	Number of Taps
82	Total Miles of Public Sanitary Sewers (separated sewers and combined sewers)
0	Miles of Public Combined Sewers (sanitary only, not including storm sewers) (estimate % of system that is combined if total miles is unavailable or unknown)
yes	Are basements (thus potentially sump pump connections) typical in your area? (indicate yes or no)
Municipal	Utility Type (municipal government, special purpose district, private utility, etc.)

2. Lateral Definition

Private Lateral Definition: (check definition that applies)

x	Building to ROW/Easement Line Only
	The city is responsible from the inspection tee in ROW to the sewer main (Note if (& how) utility treats laterals in easements differently than laterals in ROWs)
	Building To Tap on Sewer Main Line
	Other (Specify details) _____
	_____ (Note if (& how) utility treats residential building laterals differently than commercial building laterals – this may affect responses to subsequent questions)

Cleanouts: (check all that apply)

Required	Usually Exists	
x		At building
x		At ROW The city requires an inspection tee at the property line.

_____ _____ At easement

3. Lateral Program Description

Type of Lateral Program (check all that apply and describe program – try to be brief in program description, but add separate sheets as needed). If utility operates more than one private lateral program, it may be preferable to complete a separate questionnaire form for the remaining questions for each of those private lateral programs.

_____ Lateral Maintenance (e.g., cleaning, root control, etc.):

The homeowner is responsible up to the city's inspection tee.

_____ Lateral Repair (e.g., point repairs, etc.):

The homeowner is responsible up to the city's inspection tee.

_____ Lateral Replacement:

The homeowner is responsible up to the city's inspection tee.

x_____ I/I Control (Specify type; e.g., cleanout caps, sump pump disconnect, downspout/yard drain disconnect, backflow preventer installation, etc. If basements are typical in area, where are building owners directed to connect the foundation or tile drain lines that have to be disconnected?):

Prior to 1999, the homeowners were responsible for I/I on their property. Beginning in 1999, the city tried incentives to encourage homeowners to fix I/I problems. The property owners were either reimbursed for work done (up to $300) or the city did the work needed to correct the I/I. Drains of different types were redirected to storm lines or road curbs which ran to street drains.

_____ Lateral Reconnects (Specify conditions; e.g., when utility relocates main, etc. Specify special situations; e.g., sewers under building(s) requiring building plumbing changes or extensive lateral relocation):

_____

_____

_____

_____

x_____ Lateral Inspections (Specify conditions; e.g., point of sale, special utility project, etc.):

City staff inspect new installations, replacements and repairs.

x_____ New Connection Permitting (e.g., special coordination with Building Codes, etc.):

The city Building Department issues permits.

x_____ New Connection Enforcement Mechanisms:

City staff inspect new connections. The city stipulates requirements for how to make a new connection.

4. Lateral Program Implementation

Implementation Date: 1977-92; 1992-99; 1999-Present Why implemented? Federal funding; State Shellfish Grant; Consent Decree (e.g., consent order/decree, reduce CSOs/SSOs, obtain capacity to alleviate sewer moratorium, more cost-effective than "old" program, etc.)

Ongoing Program? _____ Or End Date: _____ Why Ended? Between 1977 and 1999 the focus was lateral replacement for achieving I/I reduction. Between 1999 and the Present the focus has been to eliminate large sources

of I/I. Example: One three story house with a well landscaped yard had both a very leaky side sewer and a large roof. Redirecting the storm water and replacing the side sewer cost $16,000, but eliminated 84,000 gpd during a heavy rain(>1 inch).

What Legal Authority was Required to Implement the Lateral Program? (check all that apply, inquire if electronic copy is available for virtual library; inquire if utility type [i.e., municipality vs. district] affects the necessary legal authority)

_____ Resolution

x_____ Ordinance

_____ State Enabling Legislation

_____ Other (Specify) _____

Prior to 1999 the property owner paid for replacing, repairing lateral, and disconnecting sump pumps. After 1999 the city reimbursed property owners for work done by a certain date. Those property owners that did not cooperate pain double sewer bills. In 1999 letters were sent to 380 property owners who were found to be illegally draining I/I to city sewers. City staff smoke tested the whole city twice in 1999. About 30 property owners paid double sewer bills until the cooperated. Most of the 380 property owners who previously received letters were not eligible for incentives.

5. Lateral Program Funding

Who Pays: _____ Utility _____ Property Owner _____ Other (Specify): _____
(other could include grants, loans, low & moderate income programs, block development grants, etc.; inquire if electronic copy is available for virtual library)

Funding Description: Prior to 1999 the homeowner paid for replacing, repairing lateral, and disconnecting or redirecting sump pumps. After 1999 the city reimbursed for work done or did the job to correct I/I.

6. Program Construction

Who Does the Work: _____ Utility Internal Forces _____ Utility Selects & Pays Contractor

_____ Property Owner _____ Property Owner But Only From Utility List

_____ Other (Specify:) _____

Construction Description: See above

Construction Details: Are standard details/specifications used? _____ Are electronic copies available? _____

Describe/List Details: _____

7. Public Education/Information Program

How is Lateral Program Publicized? _____ Door hangers Are electronic copies available? _____

_____ Bill stuffers Are electronic copies available? _____

_____ Meetings Are electronic copies available? _____

_____ Brochures Are electronic copies available? _____

x____ Customer Specific Are electronic copies available? _____
(e.g., provide property owner with CCTV still shot of lateral interior, field mark/locate [flag or cone] problem, provide picture of field location in case flag or cone is removed, etc.)

_____ Other (Specify) Are electronic copies available? _____

Additional Description of Material(s): _____

8. Lessons Learned

What Would You Do Differently? During the sewer system update that began in 1977, city employees would have been utilized as inspectors to make sure the work was done correctly. Require all laterals in the city be updated to plastic pipe. Require all sump pumps be connected to the storm drainage system. Require all roof, foundation, and yard drains be connected to the storm drainage system.

What Performance Measures Are/Were Used? WWTP flows compared to rainfall. _____
(e.g., plant flow reduction, CSO/SSC reduction, basement backup reduction, service call (roots, etc.,) reduction, sewer moratorium lifted, etc.,) Describe results of Lateral Program on those performance measures:

Over the years the city staff have reduced Infiltration by about 700,000 gpd, as evidenced by base dry weather flows at the WWTP. In the last ten years average daily flow to the WWTP has been reduced from 6.4 mgd to 4.0 mgd. Total I/I was as low as 3.50 mgd in 2000 (only 62.5 inches of rain that year). Our focus since 1999 has been on reducing Inflow. The 1999 incentives were the first step. Redirecting sump pump flows from 135 sump pumps has helped. Installing 14 additional storm water pumps strategically around the city has increased the city's storm water pumping capacity from 125,000,000 gpd to over 250,000,000 gpd. The additional pumps almost completely eliminated street flooding during heavy rains and significantly reduced the flow to the WWTP. I/I has been reduced from 6.36 mgd (1998) to 3.39 (2000). However, in 2006 the city experienced a twenty five year storm in January and a 100 year storm in November, resulting in I/I of 6.28 mgd for the year.

Lessons Learned: Inflow has always been the more serious issue. The city should have spent more of its resources solving Inflow problems and managing the volume of stormwater received.

9. Follow-Up Electronic Submittal

Willing to Send Electronic Materials to WEF Collection System Committee for Inclusion in Virtual Library? _____
(list all items utility agrees to send below should future follow-up reminders be needed)

Is utility willing to provide a contact (e.g., either web site address, telephone number or email address [preferably not a name due to possible privacy concerns] for inclusion in the WEF Private Lateral Virtual Library)?

_____

WEF Tracking List of Materials: _____