

PRIVATE LATERAL 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; e.g., building service connection. 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.

Program descriptions of private lateral 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: Jane McLamarrah
 Date: November 3, 2006

1. General Information

Utility Name & Location: Montgomery Water Works & Sanitary Sewer Board, Alabama

Contact Name & Details: Brian Shelton, Project Engineer (334) 206-3476
MWWSSB
22 Bibb Street, Montgomery, AL 36102

Utility Characteristics: 80,000 Number of Customers (over 28.67 square miles)
78,000 Number of Taps
1,116 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)
no 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.)
(the Board operates under a franchise from the City of Montgomery, Alabama)

2. Lateral Definition

Private Lateral Definition: _____ Building to ROW/Easement Line Only
 (check definition that applies)

 (Note if (& how) utility treats laterals in easements differently than laterals in ROWs)
X 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: _____ Usually
 (check all that apply) Required Exists
X X At building Required by plumbing code to be 4’ off building
 _____ At ROW
 _____ 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.):

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

Lateral repair is the property owner's responsibility, but repairs in the right-of-way were not being completed because of the cost. Since it was in MWSSB's interest to make sure the repairs were done to reduce I/I, the Board will complete the repair if the property owner acknowledges their responsibility and holds MWSSB harmless. MWSSB does the work and backfills to grade. The City of Montgomery has agreed to replace the curb, gutter and asphalt at the repairs.

Lateral Replacement:

Same as lateral repair above. (Note: Blockages due to grease, roots, etc., are not repair situations, they are maintenance situations. If a property owner chooses to replace the lower lateral due to routine root problems, that is their responsibility, even in the right-of-way, since it can be cleaned out and service restored.

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?):

The MWSSB operates a Private Lateral Maintenance System (PLMS) to eliminate illegal connections to the public system and prevent the infiltration of storm water from damaged sewer laterals into the public system. The utility conducts systematic smoke testing, neighborhood by neighborhood, to identify precise locations where problems exist. Problems are investigated further if necessary and documented with digital photographs for property owner notification and repair. After the property owner completes the repair, the area is re-smoked to identify second tier defects that did not initially show up due to the initial defect "taking" all the smoke.

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):

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

New laterals are inspected with new subdivisions are constructed. They are air testing along with the new sewer main prior to acceptance by the Board. Tight subdivision specifications are the first line of defense against future I/I problems.

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

The City Plumbing Department inspects connections to the new laterals (previously tested by MWWSSB) in subdivisions. Lateral extend to 10 to 15 feet beyond the right-of-way in new construction.

New Connection Enforcement Mechanisms:

4. Lateral Program Implementation

Implementation Date: 1993 Why implemented? Property owners have always been responsible for the lateral, but the program was modified in 2002 so MWWSSB performs structural repairs on the lower lateral in the right-of-way; lines the lower lateral when the sewer main is being lined and installs cleanout caps @ \$13 + 4% utility tax to improve the program. MWWSSB now also lines the lower lateral (or further if there's a storm sewer on the other side of the curb) when the sewer main is being lined.
(e.g., consent order/decreed, reduce CSOs/SSOs, obtain capacity to alleviate sewer moratorium, more cost-effective than "old" program, etc.)

Ongoing Program? Or End Date: Why Ended?

What Legal Authority was Required to Implement the Lateral Program? Resolution
(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) Ordinance
 State Enabling Legislation
 Other (Specify) _____

MWWSSB's Rules and Regulations had to be modified, which required action by the Board. Rules and Regulations must be adhered to as a condition of service. Not following the Rules and Regulations (including the I/I program) can result in discontinuance of service.

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: The property owner remains responsible for correction of illegal connections, repairs on the upper lateral, paying a nominal cost for replacement of cleanout caps, cleaning roots and flushing blockages on both the upper and lower portions of the lateral line. MWWSSB pays for structural repairs on the lower lateral line if the property owner signs a form releasing MWWSSB from any liability and if a plumber has documented the lateral is broken or has a structural problem. MWWSSB replaces damaged/missing cleanout caps, but charges the property owner \$13 + 4% utility tax for cleanout caps. MWWSSB pays for lower lateral lining when the sewer main is being lined.

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: The property owner is responsible for repairs on the upper lateral and for non-structural problems on both the upper and lower laterals. MWWSSB crews perform structural repairs on the lower lateral and replaces broken or missing cleanout caps at a nominal fee to the property owner.

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

Describe/List Details: MWWSSB uses a stringent testing specification that includes air testing, vacuum testing and mandrel testing.

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? Yes
 Customer Specific Are electronic copies available? No
(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? Yes

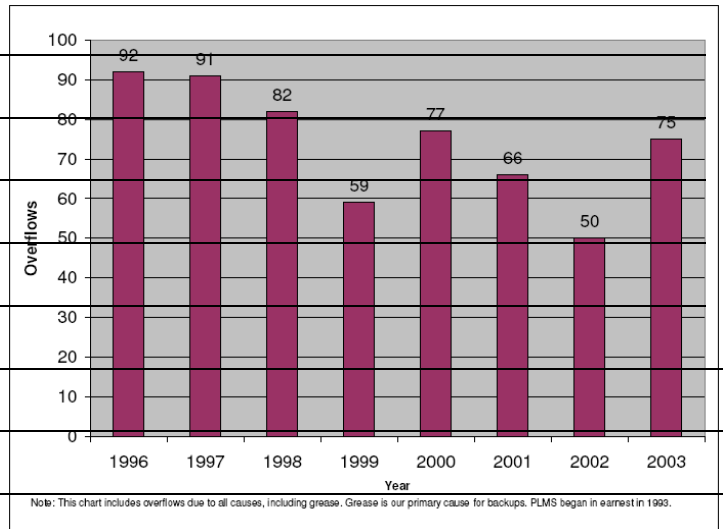
Additional Description of Material(s): MWWSSB uses door hangers for the smoke testing program, notices of defects for initial property owner notification and termination of water service for failure to comply. The PLMS program is described on MWWSSB's web site at www.mwwssb.com/about_engineering_plms.cfm.

8. Lessons Learned

What Would You Do Differently? The smoke testing program started in 1993/1994, but not enough corrective action was being completed in the right-of way so MWWSSB started performing lower lateral work at no cost to the property owner in 2002. More flow monitoring in the upper reaches of the system was conducted to fine tune smoke testing and private lateral efforts.

What Performance Measures Are/Were Used? Wet weather SSO reductions and wet weather lift station flows. (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:

Figure 1 below shows 8 years of SSO data. Because of the way the data is recorded, MWWSSB was unable to break out wet weather SSOs, so the increase in grease-related SSO reductions mask the actual benefits in wet weather reductions.



Lessons Learned: Significant reductions are possible with an aggressive private lateral program. The program must be deliberate and intentional. Flow monitoring to measure progress and isolate problem

subbasins is helpful. Laterals cannot be neglected in any useful I/I reduction program. Frontline defense of tight and strictly enforced construction specifications is necessary.

9. Follow-Up Electronic Submittal

Willing to Send Electronic Materials to WEF Collection System Committee for Inclusion in Virtual Library? Yes. (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)?

www.mwwssb.com

WEF Tracking List of Materials: AWEA Powerpoint presentation summarizing program.
Wastewater Collection Brochure (scanned version).
Testing specification.