

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: Carol Hufnagel _____
Date: January 2007 _____

1. General Information

Utility Name & Location: City of Port Huron, Michigan _____

Contact Name & Details: Robert Clegg, P.E., City Engineer _____
100 McMorran Blvd _____
Port Huron, MI 48060 (810) 984-9730 _____

Utility Characteristics: 12,700 _____ Number of Customers
12,850 _____ Number of Taps
118 _____ Total Miles of Public Sanitary Sewers (separated sewers and combined sewers)
35 _____ 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) Note: basement service is 98% gravity.

Municipal Government Utility Type (municipal government, special purpose district, private utility, etc.)

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)

yes _____ Building To Tap on Sewer Main Line

note _____ Other (Specify details) During construction of main line upgrades, private laterals are replaced to the curb line as a means of protecting the street. This is done as a preventative measure to avoid problems under new pavement and to reduce I/I.

Utility is providing additional service leads (both sanitary and storm) to commercial properties during sewer separation to allow for separation of private properties. _____

(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)	<u>Required</u>	<u>Usually Exists</u>	
	x _____	x _____	At building (and at bends on lateral).
	_____	_____	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 maintenance is by the property owner. During sewer separation, lateral repair outside of paved areas is performed in conjunction with new sanitary sewer construction. City has been provided new laterals to locations where properties share a lead in areas where new sanitary sewer construction is ongoing. These new laterals only extend to the curb line, property owner would need to pick up there to connect. In a couple select instances house connections have been reversed from an alley or easement to street access. When this is done for City convenience, it is at City expense

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

See above – property owner responsibility by ordinance.

_____ Lateral Replacement:

See above – property owner responsibility by ordinance.

yes 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?):

As part of the sewer separation program in Port Huron, a private property I/I program has been implemented. This program involves a complete inspection of the property by City consultant staff. Each property is dye testing and all drainage structures (i.e. catch basins, roof sumps, etc.) are dye tested to confirm their outlet location. The property status is documented in an inspection form and in a report. As needed, the City provides new sanitary or storm leads to the property (at property line) to facilitate on site separation. Placement of these leads is coordinated with more complex properties. On site separation is the responsibility of the property owner. Property owners are notified of issues prior to sewer separation construction, and expected to correct all issues prior to completion of sewer separation. If necessary, attorney letters are sent, no court action has been taken to date.

_____ 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):

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

No requirements at this time.

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

New connections must follow plumbing codes, which prohibit connection of surface or groundwater sources.

_____ New Connection Enforcement Mechanisms:

Not an issue.

4. Lateral Program Implementation

Implementation Date: NA _____ Why implemented? _____
(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) _____

5. Lateral Program Funding

Who Pays: NA__ 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: _____

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: _____

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

Describe/List Details: _____

7. Public Education/Information Program

How is ~~Lateral~~ Private Inflow Removal Program Publicized?

_____ Door hangers Are electronic copies available? _____

_____ Bill stuffers Are electronic copies available? _____

_____ Meetings Are electronic copies available? _____

_____ Brochures Are electronic copies available? _____

_____ 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.)

X_____ Other (Specify) Are electronic copies available? Yes, letters, forms_

Additional Description of Material(s): see attached _____

8. Lessons Learned

What Would You Do Differently? Programs are most successful when begun well in advance of construction, allowing time for property owner to budget and address problems. Need a more successful mechanism to ensure that when property changes hands that new owner is told of the issue. Need to ensure that commercial properties receive a storm sewer lead appropriately placed to pick up their drainage. Ability to shut off water is very motivating for property owners who will not cooperate. Rental properties have been problematic, landlords are often not willing to perform the work. Need to have building enforcement department (rental properties) willing to take action if property owner will not cooperate. Also need to ensure that department that issues building permits doesn't permit a project that is in violation of the ordinance (such as an uncovered external stairwell with a drain.) _____

What Performance Measures Are/Were Used? Flows meeting design criteria after completion of separation. _____
(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:

Number of properties inspected: 8805; Number of properties with problems: 763; Remaining properties needing correction: 115

Lessons Learned: See "what would you do differently" _____

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)?

Port Huron Department of Public Works: (810) 984 - 9730

WEF Tracking List of Materials: _____

