

PRIVATE LATERAL PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE – DRAFT # 2, March 1, 2006

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: Rudolf Ohlemutz _____
Date: 06/22/06 _____

1. General Information

Utility Name & Location: Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District, Vallejo, CA _____

Contact Name & Details: Rudolf Ohlemutz, District Engineer _____

Utility Characteristics: 30,000 _____ Number of Customers
_____ Number of Taps
300 _____ 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)

Special District 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)

_____ Building To Tap on Sewer Main Line

x _____ Other (Specify details) Building clean-out to District clean-out (at property line),
or to main if no District clean-out
(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

x _____ _____ At ROW

x _____ _____ 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.):

No routine cleaning of public lateral, only if there is a problem. No cleaning of private lateral at all.

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

District has separately funded reimbursement program for private laterals. It works like an insurance program.

_____ Lateral Replacement:

Same

_____ 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?):

Replacement through reimbursement program or area-wide rehab program. Detection and removal of illegal connections.

_____ 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):

District responsible for reconnecting lateral if work is performed on main.

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

If requested by owner (part of reimbursement program) and new construction (in new subdivisions, we inspect 10% of all laterals by CCTV)

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

District issues permit, changes connection fee.

_____ New Connection Enforcement Mechanisms:

None

4. Lateral Program Implementation

Implementation Date: 1989_____ Why implemented? To reduce I/I_____ (e.g., consent order/decreed, reduce CSOs/SSOs, obtain capacity to alleviate sewer moratorium, more cost-effective than "old" program, etc.)

Ongoing Program? yes_____ Or End Date: _____ Why Ended? _____

Referred to as "Upper Lateral Program"

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) x_____ Ordinance
_____ State Enabling Legislation
_____ Other (Specify) _____

5. Lateral Program Funding

Who Pays: _____ Utility x_____ 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: _____

“Upper Lateral fee” collected with monthly sewer fees. _____

6. Program Construction

Who Does the Work: _____ Utility Internal Forces _____ Utility Selects & Pays Contractor
x_____ Property Owner _____ Property Owner But Only From Utility List
_____ Other (Specify): _____

Construction Description: _____

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

Describe/List Details: _____

7. Public Education/Information Program

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

Additional Description of Material(s): Word of mouth _____

8. Lessons Learned

What Would You Do Differently? Nothing _____

What Performance Measures Are/Were Used? None _____
(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:

Lessons Learned: _____

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 website address, telephone number or email address [preferably not a name due to possible privacy concerns] for inclusion in the WEF Private Lateral Virtual Library)?
Yes _____

WEF Tracking List of Materials: _____

