

### 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: June 28, 2006

#### 1. General Information

Utility Name & Location: City of Houston, Houston, Texas

Contact Name & Details: Joseph Majdalani, PE, Assistant Director (713) 641-9182  
Collections Systems Operations, Wastewater Operations Branch, Dept of Public Works & Engr.  
4545 Groveway, Houston, TX 77087

Utility Characteristics: 2.8 m people Number of Customers (Includes satellite systems)  
436,991 Number of Taps  
6,300 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)  
Municipal Utility Type (municipal government, special purpose district, private utility, etc.)

#### 2. Lateral Definition

Private Lateral Definition: X Building to ROW/Easement Line Only  
(check definition that applies)  
City ordinance: private = building to tap; General operating practice: private =  
building to street ROW  
(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:  
(check all that apply) Required Usually Exists  
X X At building  
X Exists in newer areas, but not in older developments.  
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.):

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

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  X   Lateral Replacement:

  Conducting a low income private lateral replacement pilot program as part of a Supplemental Environmental Project.  

  The SEP program will replace low income private laterals from the tap at the sewer main to the house cleanout.  

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  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?):

  New program.  

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       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.):

Limited number.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New Connection Enforcement Mechanisms:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Lateral Program Implementation** (The remainder of this questionnaire relates only to the Lateral SEP project.)

Implementation Date: Apr.2006 Why implemented? SEP as part of an Agreed Order with TCEQ  
(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 \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance  
for virtual library; inquire if utility type [i.e., municipality vs. \_\_\_\_\_ State Enabling Legislation  
district] affects the necessary legal authority)   
\_\_\_\_\_ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

State of Texas passed a law in 2005 that allowed utilities to expend public money on private property if the money was used as part of an SSO reduction program. The legislation was not initiated, or passed, as a result of the City's desire to complete this SEP.

**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 SEP is a project being completed in lieu of a penalty under the Agreed Order with TCEQ.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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 City has just bid the construction and held an April 2006 preconstruction meeting.  
As of the end of June 2006, 19 services have been completed.  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Describe/List Details: Construction requirements were included in the bid package.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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? No  
 Brochures Are electronic copies available? \_\_\_\_\_  
 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? \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Description of Material(s): Eligible low income home owners are being identified by City of Houston  
low income programs such as Houston Hope. No general public solicitation efforts are being conducted for participation  
in this program.

**8. Lessons Learned**

What Would You Do Differently? Project just initiated so no lessons learned at this point.

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What Performance Measures Are/Were Used? None, but SSOs are being tracked on a citywide basis.  
(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:

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Lessons Learned: \_\_\_\_\_

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**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: Electronic copy of bid package

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