

City of Sidney

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I & I PROJECT 2019 AREA 6
PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY

RESIDENT:

In 2012 the City of Sidney adopted Codified Ordinance Chapter 914. This ordinance was needed to enable the City to comply with new EPA regulations for inflow and infiltration (I & I).

Inflow happens when clear water or rainwater enters the sanitary sewer system through a direct connection such as a downspout drain or foundation drain/sump pump connection. Infiltration happens when there is a crack, broken pipe or roots in a pipe and ground water enters the system. When I & I occurs in excess, partially treated sewage may be discharged to the river which may in turn cause the City of Sidney to violate EPA regulations.

Upon adoption of Chapter 914, a plan was developed by the City to meet OEPA requirements to reduce the infiltration of clear water into the City's sanitary sewers. This plan includes an extensive program to televise, grout and seal 15,000 to 20,000 feet of City-owned sewers annually. At the same time, efforts will be taken to reduce, if not eliminate, I & I from private residences within the City. Private property I & I can contribute as much as 50%-80% of the total I & I in the City's sewer system. The City's goal is to have 400 – 500 private homes inspected annually to determine whether I & I from these homes is being allowed to pass into the City's sanitary sewers. The City, using sewer flow meter data collected over the past three years, has identified the area in which your property is located as a high contributor to I & I and thus subject to investigation during calendar year 2019.

What this means to you as the homeowner: 1) You will be required at your expense to have your building drain and building sewer inspected by a professional within 12 months of April 30, 2019. Included is an explanation of what the City requirements are for the required inspection process. 2) The video inspection of your system shall be submitted to the City for its review. The City will issue a report to you, as the owner, whether your building drain and building sewer passed or failed for inflow or infiltration. If infiltration is detected: 3) You will then have until April 30, 2022 to complete the necessary repairs to bring your system into compliance with City Code. If your system passes, there is no further action required.

In either case, you can install a City approved inspection chamber in the right-of-way. If you choose to install this chamber, the City will assume future responsibility for the maintenance of that chamber as well as that portion of your home's sewer lateral from chamber to the sanitary sewer main. This is of benefit to you, as the most costly portion of any sanitary sewer repair is most often associated with the restoration of paved surfaces. Future costs to you if any, for the remaining portion of the sewer lateral outside the right-of-way, will be greatly reduced. To take advantage of this cost-saving measure, an Agreement must be signed by all property owners listed on the deed and filed for record in the Office of the Shelby County Recorder. Once all work is completed and the building drain and building sewer are deemed to be in compliance, no additional inspections will be required unless your home is identified in the future as a contributor to I & I to the City's sewer system.

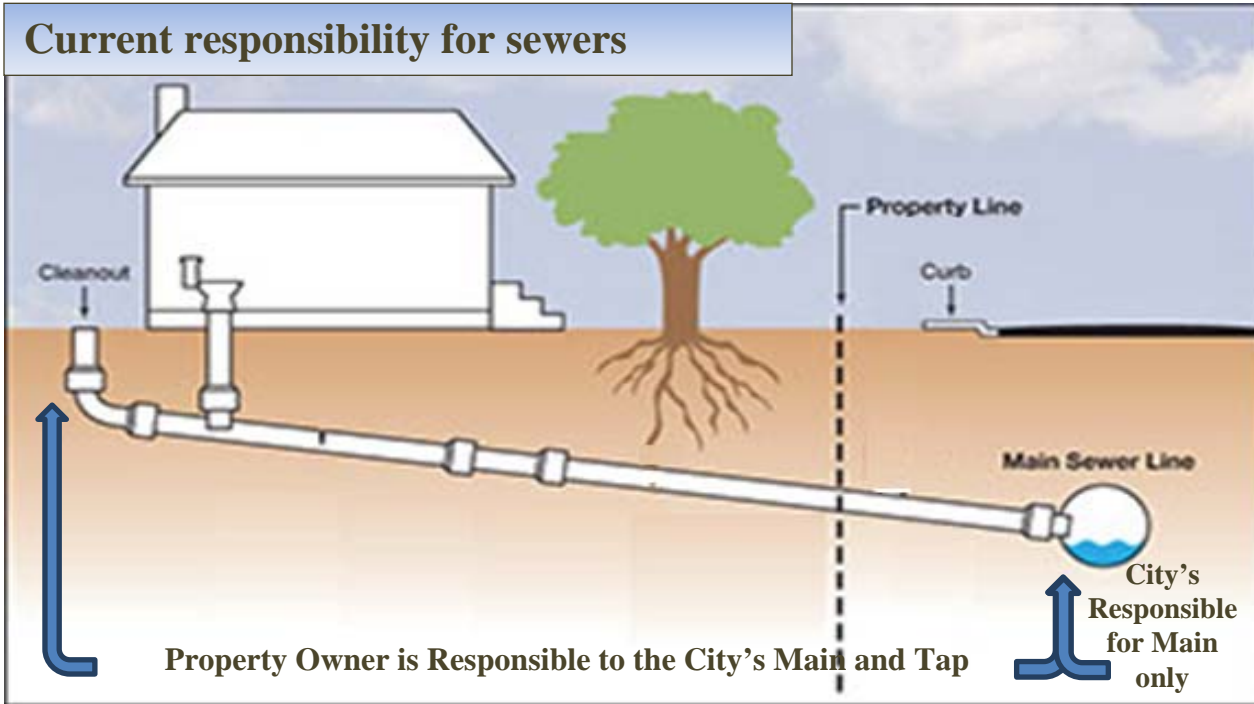
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number above or Utilities Director, William Blakely at 937.498.8152 or the Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director, Gary Clough at 937.498.8141. Cindy Naseman can be contacted at 937.498.8117 to schedule an appointment to have your Agreement notarized free of charge.

Respectfully,

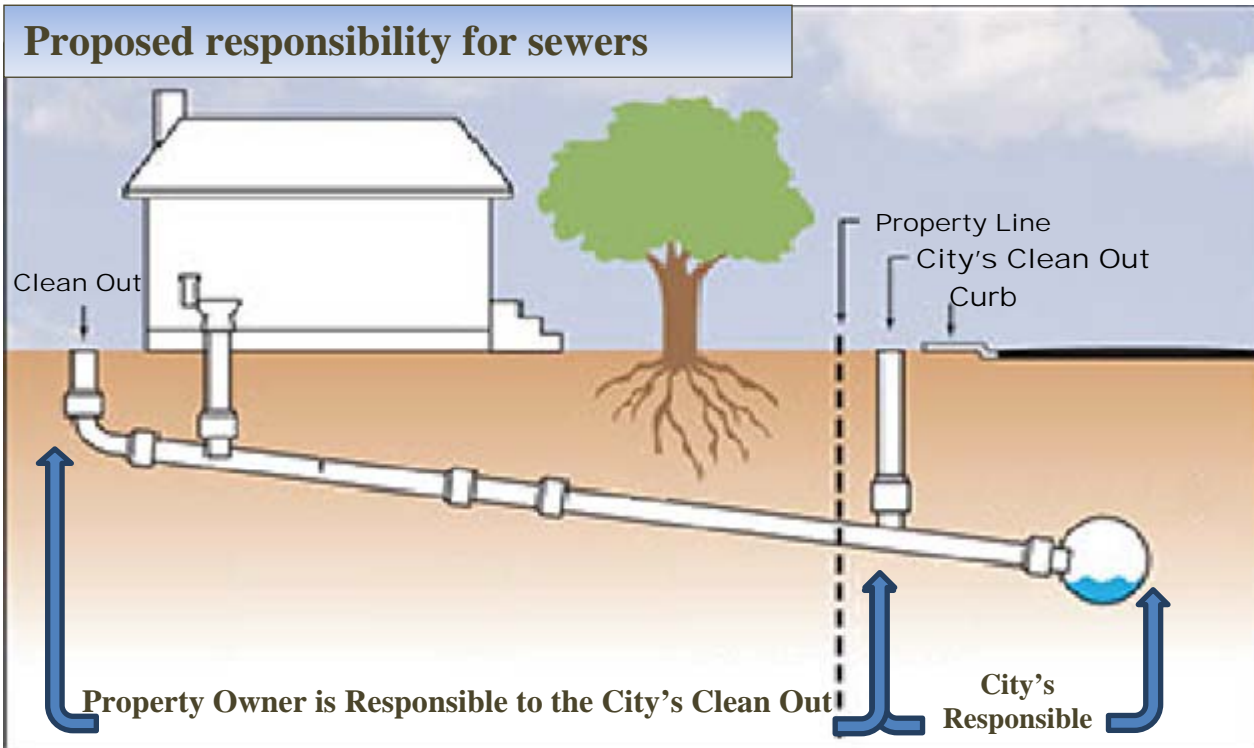
Steve Rhodes
Underground Utilities Superintendent

Private Sewer Transfer Program for Sewers Installed Prior to 01/01/2013

Current responsibility for sewers



Proposed responsibility for sewers



Notes: To transfer portion of a private sewer in the right of way to the City, the property owner must meet the following criteria:

- 1) The clean out type and its location in the right of way must be approved by the City unless it is provided as part of a City sewer project and the Utilities Director has waived this requirement.
- 2) All fees must be paid by the property owner unless it is part of a City sewer project and the Utilities Director has waived this requirement.
- 3) The "AGREEMENT FOR TRANSFER OF A BUILDING SEWER IN THE RIGHT OF WAY" must be executed by the property owner and recorded with the City.

Note: Sewers connected after 01/01/2013 shall meet the updated standards

PROGRAM:

Ohio EPA's requirement to eliminate wet weather blending operations at the Wastewater Treatment Plant requires the City to investigate sources of clean water entering the sanitary sewers. Typically 50%-80% of clean water enters the sewers from private property. Clean water (rain & ground water) that finds its way into a Sanitary Sewer is also called Inflow & Infiltration (I & I).

The City will not be able to meet EPA's requirements without finding and removing clean water from both public and private sewers.

Property owners will be required, under certain circumstances, to have an inspection of their sewer performed to find and eliminate I & I sources. Inspection costs vary depending on site-specific conditions, but are estimated to range from \$200 to \$500. Inspections that identify defects that may allow clean water to enter the sewer will be required to be repaired or eliminated. Property owners that are replacing their sewer are encouraged to contact the City to obtain updated sewer standards.

QUESTIONS:

How did the City respond to the EPA requirements?

In 2012, the City of Sidney adopted Codified Ordinance Chapters 913 and 914. This ordinance was needed to enable the City to comply with new EPA regulations for the elimination of I & I.

What causes I & I?

Inflow happens when clear water or rainwater enters the sanitary sewer system through a direct connection such as a downspout drain or foundation drain/sump pump connection. Infiltration happens when there is a crack, broken pipe or roots in a pipe and ground water enters the system.

Why is I & I detrimental to the City?

When I & I occurs in excess, partially treated sewage may be discharged to the river which may, in turn, cause the City of Sidney to violate EPA regulations. Ohio EPA is also requiring the City to expand its wastewater treatment plant to handle flows that are more than 8x our normal flows at a cost of over \$32 million dollars. This cost must be absorbed by the users/ customers of the system.

Does the City have a plan in place?

Adoption of Chapter 914 created a plan for the City to reduce the I & I of clear water into the City's sanitary sewers. This plan includes an extensive program for the City to televise, grout and seal 15,000 to 20,000 feet of City-owned sewer annually. At the same time, efforts will be taken to reduce, if not eliminate, I & I from private residences within the City. Private property I & I can contribute as much as 50%-80% of the total I & I in the City's sewer system. The City's goal is to have 400 – 500 private homes inspected annually to determine whether I & I from these homes is getting into the City's sanitary sewers.

What responsibility does the homeowner have?

- Each property owner will be required to eliminate any source of I & I from his/her sewer lateral at his/her cost.
- An agreement must be signed and filed for record in the Office of the Shelby County Recorder if the property owner wants the City to assume ownership of the portion of the lateral in the right-of-way including under the road.
- If the right-of-way portion is signed over to the City, a City approved inspection chamber will be required to be installed in the right-of-way at your expense. The cost is \$150 for a 6" chamber, plus a \$50 processing fee for the Shelby County Recorder both of which will appear on your utility bill. The City will assume future responsibility for the maintenance of that chamber as well as that portion of your home's sewer lateral from the inspection chamber to the sanitary sewer main.
- You are required to have your building drain and building sewer inspected by a professional within 12 months of notification by the City. The limits of the inspection would end at the inspection chamber if you convey that portion of the sewer lateral in the right-of-way or to the sewer main if you choose not to. If you choose not to convey the sewer lateral in the right-of-way to the City, and if infiltration is detected, the City will contact you. You will then have 24 months to complete the necessary repairs to bring your system into compliance with City Code.
- Once all work is completed and the building drain and sewer are deemed in compliance of the I & I Program, no additional inspections will be required unless this property is identified as a contributor to I & I into the City's sewer system in the future.

Is there a benefit to the homeowner in signing the agreement?

Yes. The most costly portion of any sanitary sewer repair is often associated with the restoration of paved surfaces. With the City assuming future responsibility for the portion of your sewer lateral that is located beneath paved surface, future costs to you, if any, will be greatly reduced.

What will happen if I do not sign the agreement?

You will remain responsible for the entire building drain and building sewer. You will still be required to have the inspection performed and subsequent repairs made following a failed inspection.

Is there an appeal process?

There is not an appeal process.

Why is the EPA requiring the City to do this?

To reduce the impact of untreated wet weather flows on the wastewater treatment plant, the sewer collection system and the receiving body of water from the discharges of the wastewater treatment plant. This will also help to minimize sanitary sewer overflows and water in basement incidents (SSO and WIB).

Why do I have to do anything?

As stated above, private property sources can contribute as much as 50% to 80% of I & I in a system. By getting your sewer inspected and removing any clear water connections that may be in your system, I & I will be reduced into the sewer collection system.

What is this going to cost?

The cost can vary depending on circumstances, ground conditions and the length of the sewer lateral but can range from \$0 to \$8,000 as an estimated range of costs. Conveying the sewer lateral in the right-of-way can reduce this maximum estimated cost in half.

Can I get any assistance in paying for needed repairs?

The City is working on allocating a portion of the federal Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) monies it receives toward assisting low to moderate-income families with paying for required repairs.

The City has also established the I & I SEWER LATERAL INSPECTION LOAN PROGRAM. With funds being limited, the City encourages property owners to complete the application as soon as possible to see if you qualify. Applications for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and the I & I SEWER LATERAL INSPECTION LOAN PROGRAM are available by contacting the City's Community Development Department.

Will anything be done to lower my sewer bill?

The City continues to negotiate with Ohio EPA to get credit for our I&I program to help reduce the cost of improvements necessary at the wastewater treatment plant related to I&I flows. If the City is successful, this may help to reduce the EPA fee portion of your water and sewer bill which is related to reduction of I & I. The sewer portion of your bill will not decrease due to these efforts. That portion of your bill is the cost to maintain the sewer system and wastewater treatment plant and is based on your water usage as a property owner.

Who can I call to do the required inspections, video, and needed repairs?

A list of approved plumbers and contractors are available from the City by contacting the Municipal Service Center at 937.498.8117.