

Eric Zembower, Chairman
Gregory Crist, Vice Chairman
Mark Donahoe, Treasurer



Ian Frederick, Secretary
Ron Springer, Asst. Tres./Sec.

May 13, 2024

RE: Sewer Lateral Pressure Testing at Property Sale

Dear Property Owner:

The Bedford Township Municipal Authority (BTMA) is responsible for the collection and conveyance of all public sanitary sewerage generated in Bedford Township. Sanitary sewerage is then treated at the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Bedford's (MABB) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) prior to being discharged. MABB is being required to remove sources of inflow & infiltration (I/I) from the sanitary sewer system in order to abandon the current Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) that discharges untreated wastewater to the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River during heavy precipitation events. The CSO must be abandoned by December 31, 2025, in accordance with a Consent Order & Agreement executed with the PA DEP.

BTMA has been trying to remove I/I within the sanitary sewer system by smoke testing and visually inspecting standpipes and cleanouts; however, BTMA needs to remove more I/I so that MABB meets the DEP deadline. Please make sure there are no sump pumps or down spouts connected to the sewer system. Check your standpipes to make sure they have caps and are not unseated. Also, if you suspect you have an issue with your lateral please have it tested.

The BTMA Board amended the Wastewater System Rates, Rules & Regulations to include mandatory Sanitary Sewer Pressure Testing at Property Transfer. This is effective June 1, 2024. Please see the attached document with details and requirements.

BTMA also wants to remind customers that public sewer systems are only designed to handle wastewater from appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers, as well as from sinks, baths and human waste and toilet paper flushed down toilets. Sewer systems are not meant to be used as trash receptacles.

Another enemy to public sewer systems is Fats Oils and Grease (FOG). These items should **never** be allowed to enter the public sewer system. By allowing FOG into the sewer system customers not only risk clogging their private line, but also the sewer mains. Also, by allowing items not meant to be put in the sanitary sewerage system this risks damage to the BTMA conveyance system and the WWTP. BTMA wants to keep the costs down to maintain the public system, but the customer also needs to take responsibility in helping maintain the system. BTMA does not want to increase rates, but if costs to maintain the system and treat sanitary sewerage continue to increase we may have no other option.

We appreciate your cooperation and if you have any questions, please contact the BTMA at 814-623-7879.

Sincerely,

BTMA Board of Directors