

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



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

NOTICE TEST/REPAIR SEWER LATERAL

September 21, 2026

«Name»

«Owner_Address1»

«City1», «State1» «Zip1»

RE: SERVICE ADDRESS: «Service_Address_Short»

Dear Property Owner,

Please accept this letter as formal notification that all customers of the Bedford Township Municipal Authority's (BTMA) Sanitary Sewer System will be required to participate in an upcoming project involving the need for all properties to perform pressure testing of private sewer lines and, where necessary, replacement of those private sewer lines. The Municipal Authority of the Borough of Bedford (MABB) has received an extension to abandon the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) by December 31, 2028, in accordance with a Consent Order & Agreement executed with the PA DEP. Because wastewater collected by BTMA ultimately contributes flow to MABB's system, BTMA is undertaking an I/I reduction program to reduce extraneous flow conveyed to MABB and assist in meeting the requirements associated with abandonment of the CSO, which currently discharges untreated wastewater to the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River during heavy precipitation events. BTMA will be completing the mandatory testing in phases. You are receiving this letter because your property will be included in either the Phase 2 or Phase 3 testing areas. The Phase 2 testing area will target the portions of the township with high groundwater and flooding issues and / or as determined by the sewer flow metering being completed in the coming months. The Phase 3 testing area will include all customers not included in Phase 1 or Phase 2.

You are hereby notified that you are required to complete any and all work necessary to have your sanitary sewer lateral pass the required air pressure testing and be in compliance with the Bedford Township Municipal Authority Resolution 2026-06 adopted on September 2, 2026. A copy of the resolution is available at the BTMA office.

**The deadline for completion of testing in Phase 2 will be December 2027
and the deadline for all required work and successful testing will be June 2028.**

**The deadline for completion of testing in Phase 3 will be June 2028
and the deadline for all required work and successful testing will be December 2028.**

The following is a brief outline of the requirements prescribed with the Rules and Regulations:

AIR PRESSURE TESTING

1. All existing and/or newly installed buried piping between the exterior of the foundation wall and the sewer main must pass an air pressure test. A BTMA representative must witness and approve the test in writing. The air pressure test shall be conducted at 5 psi for 15 minutes with no loss of pressure.

2. Some older terra cotta laterals may be unlikely to pass the required pressure test. Property owners may forego initial testing and instead replace the sewer lateral. The newly installed lateral must then be inspected and successfully pressure tested in accordance with BTMA requirements.
3. Prior to testing, customers should be certain that all required components of a sewer lateral exist, including a cleanout and viewport. If any of those items do not exist, they must be installed prior to any pressure testing. If an existing improved property does not have a viewport, please contact the BTMA office at 814-623-7879.
4. The Authority will not require testing or replacement of piping beneath the building slab unless a specific condition is known or subsequently identified that is contributing stormwater or groundwater to the sanitary sewer system. Testing and replacement of the sewer lateral will only be required between the exterior of the foundation wall and the connection point. If stormwater is later detected in the sewer lateral by visual inspection, under-slab repair may be required.
5. Scheduling for inspection of work or witnessing a test must be made 72-hours in advance. BTMA will allocate a maximum 30-minute appointment for witnessing the test. All equipment setup and preliminary connections shall be completed before the scheduled appointment. There is no fee for witnessing the initial testing prior to deadlines for each phase. After that date, a fee of \$25.00 shall apply. A fee shall be assessed for any required returned trips.
6. Should a sewer lateral need to be replaced, an inspection shall be conducted by a BTMA representative prior to backfilling. Please be advised that a \$200.00 inspection fee shall apply. This fee is waived for calendar year 2027.
7. Please contact the BTMA office at 814-623-7879, Monday-Friday, 7:30am-3:30pm to schedule an inspection or witnessing of a pressure test. Inspections are only performed Monday-Friday from 7:00am-3:00pm.
8. When witnessing a pressure test, the BTMA representative shall also inspect the interior of the building in order to verify visually or through alternative types of testing that there are no illegal stormwater connections, including sump pumps, connected to the sewer lateral.
9. The Authority does not provide pressure testing. The Authority only witnesses the test and certifies the result.
10. A Certificate of Sewage Compliance will be good for ten years.

SPECIFICATIONS OF SEWER LATERAL

1. All new pipe installed must be type SDR 35 PVC pipe conforming to ASTM D3034 or equal. Pipe and fittings shall have bell and spigot type elastomeric gasketed joints. Gaskets shall meet the requirements of ASTM F477. SDR 35 shall be used for vent and trap assemblies, and in load bearing areas if specifically approved by the Authority's inspector. Fernco fittings shall be placed on all stand pipes to prevent potential infiltration caused by ground freeze/thaw movement of pipes.
2. No bend may exceed 45°.
3. All buildings shall be provided with a trap, vent, and cleanout assembly that is the same size as the sewer lateral, and a minimum 4" viewport at the property line.
4. All Building Sewers shall be placed on a six (6) inch aggregate base and backfilled with aggregate to at least six (6) inches above top of pipe. The pipe shall have at least thirty (30) inches of cover. The pipe shall be laid in a straight alignment. The aggregate shall be PennDOT 2B, 2A or 2RC unless otherwise approved by the Authority. Lines in load bearing areas must be properly compacted. Traps, standpipes, vents and inspection ports shall be covered with 2B, 2A or 2RC aggregate up to 6" below grade.
5. State law requires that PA One Call (800-242-1776 or 811) be notified three working days in advance of an excavation.

EXTENT OF EXCAVATION AND REPAIR

1. The customer shall be responsible to excavate from the edge of the public right-of-way, or easement, to the building foundation as necessary to replace the lateral.
2. Current Rules and Regulations no longer allow sewer laterals to be shared. In any case in which a sewer lateral is shared, two new sewer laterals must be installed with new connection points (tapping fee waived).
3. Any industry-standard method of internal rehabilitation or trenchless repair of a sewer lateral is permitted, including methods such as pipe bursting or internal lining, so long as the rehabilitation successfully passes an air pressure test and conforms to the requirements of the Rules and Regulations.

STORMWATER DISCHARGES

1. The diversion or direct connection of storm or surface water to the Township's separate stormwater collection system is prohibited. In no event is stormwater to be discharged upon or across public or private sidewalks and public or private streets or discharged onto adjacent property.
2. As sources of stormwater are disconnected from the sanitary sewer system, additional stormwater will likely accumulate on the property. If a sump pump is determined to be necessary, the sump pump may not be discharged in the sanitary sewer system. Stormwater shall be discharged to an appropriate location on the property in accordance with applicable Township requirements and shall not be discharged to the sanitary sewer system, onto adjacent property, or across public streets or sidewalks.

AUTHORIZED WORKERS

1. Property owners are permitted to perform their own work, without engaging a contractor. All work shall be inspected and pressure tested.
2. The BTMA does not provide recommendations for specific contractors. A list of contractors who indicated a willingness to perform such work is provided as a courtesy at www.goh2o.net/btma. Contractors must provide BTMA with a current Certificate of Liability Insurance.
3. If BTMA becomes aware of a fraudulent act on the part of a contractor, such as attempting to evade proper pressure testing procedures, the contractor will be barred from performing any further work on the sewage collection system.

DEFINITIONS USED HEREIN

1. Cleanout- A 4" pipe with a watertight cap installed at the building line, outside of the building, into which flushing and cleaning equipment may be inserted to clear obstructions in the lateral.
2. I/I- (Inflow & Infiltration)- Any surface water or ground water which enters the sanitary sewer system by any means.
3. Lateral- All piping, including the viewport, between the customer's exterior foundation wall and the sewer main.
4. Viewport- A minimum 4" pipe with watertight cap installed at the property line at or above ground level through which a BTMA representative may view the flow in the lateral. The viewport must always be easily accessible to BTMA.

FAILURE TO COMPLY

1. The deadline for compliance with requirements will be based on phase deadlines.
2. BTMA reserves the right to apply a surcharge to non-conforming properties, to discontinue water service to non-conforming properties, and to enter the property to correct any non-conforming conditions.
3. If for any reason an Owner is unable to comply with the applicable resolution or the Rules and Regulations and make required repairs or connections within the six (6) month period, the Owner may submit a corrective action plan to the Authority. The plan shall include a signed contract with a prospective contractor as well as the specific date of repair. The scope of work must be sufficient, as determined by the Authority, to accomplish compliance with the Rules and Regulations. The approval of a corrective action plan will avoid any penalty described above during the approved term of said corrective action plan but will not negate the obligation to pay any and all service charges that would have otherwise been payable.
4. Any person who shall fail, neglect, or refuse to comply with any of the terms or provisions of the applicable ordinance, or of any regulation or requirement pursuant thereto and authorized thereby shall, upon conviction before any district justice, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$600.00 and costs of prosecution. Each day that the violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.