



Sewer Connections Serving Property Partially Located in a Non-MWRA Community

Policy #: OP.04

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Purpose

This policy describes the process that must be followed by a person seeking MWRA sewer service for a building or structure that is located partially within and partially outside the MWRA's service area set forth in section 8(c) of MWRA's Enabling Act (St. 1984, c.372). This document replaces the policy entitled "Policy and Procedures for Sewer Connections Serving Property Partially Located in a Non-MWRA Community" effective on September 15, 1997.

Eligibility

This policy applies to persons seeking MWRA sewer services for buildings and structures partially within and partially outside MWRA's service area set forth in section 8 (c) of MWRA's Enabling Act.

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Policy Statement

The MWRA provides main sewer services to its service area, consisting of the area of the political subdivisions ("the user communities") listed in Section 8(c) of the MWRA Enabling Act. The MWRA recognizes that each of these user communities has the primary responsibility for the safe and efficient operation of its local sewer system. The MWRA also acknowledges that, as part of sound wastewater system management, it is desirable to control wastewater flows to treatment facilities whenever possible.

Therefore, any consideration of the acceptance of persons seeking to discharge wastewater from a building or structure located partly within and partly outside the MWRA's service area through a connection to the sewer system of an MWRA user community shall be accompanied by strict application of requirements, policies, and standards, given that transport capacity in the MWRA system is limited.

Accordingly, it shall be the policy of the MWRA that all persons seeking to discharge wastewater from a building or structure located partly within and partly outside the MWRA's service area through a connection to the sewer system of an MWRA user community shall observe the process set forth below.

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Process

The following process must be followed for an application for MWRA sewer service for a building or structure that is located partially within and partially outside a community to which MWRA provides main sewer services.

A. Initial Non-MWRA Community Notification

The developer or proponent shall notify the non-MWRA community of the intended new sewer hook-up. Such notification shall include any information that the applicant and non-user community deems necessary (it may consist of the materials submitted to the transporting community). Such notification should be provided to the Chief Executive Officer and Sewer Department (if one exists).

B. Transporting (MWRA) Community Approval

The developer shall apply in writing for a request for approval by the transporting community of the new sewer hook-up. Such application shall include information that the transporting community deems necessary. The application should be submitted to the department or board in the sewer use community that has the responsibility to approve new sewer connections and sewer service to a building that is located partially outside the community. A request for approval should also be provided to the Chief Executive Officer in the MWRA sewer community.

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Process, continued

C. Application:

If the application is approved by the MWRA community whose sewer system will transport the wastewater and by the non-MWRA community, the applicant shall forward the application and the communities' approval letters to the MWRA Advisory Board and the MWRA Board of Directors requesting their approval of the connection. The Advisory Board application should be sent to the Director of the Advisory Board. The Board of Directors application should be sent to the MWRA Executive Director.

The developer or proponent shall advise the Advisory Board and the Board of Directors, at a minimum, of (1) the size and location of the building or structure to be served, (2) sewer connection plans and specifications if available, (3) the estimated average daily wet weather and dry weather wastewater flows from the building or structure to be served, (4) characterization of the wastewater to enable the transporting community and MWRA to determine if effluent limitations and sewer use regulations are met (5) the estimated total daily water use, and (6) any measures that the developer or proponent will take to achieve a verifiable four to one gallon reduction in peak inflow within the transporting community or further downstream, as identified through consultations with MWRA and the communities. The verifiable four to one-gallon reduction in peak inflow is a baseline requirement of the MWRA. (MWRA recognizes the right of the transporting community to require a supplemental reduction in wastewater or infiltration/inflow in addition to the MWRA requirement.)

MWRA must determine with a reasonable level of confidence that the following conditions are met:

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Process, continued

The applicant has worked cooperatively with the transporting community to identify projects that will achieve a verifiable four to one gallon reduction in peak inflow based on DEP guidelines (DEP guidance: One year, six hour design (about 1.7 inches) for inflow and other parameters for infiltration pursuant to *DEP Guidelines for Performing Infiltration/Inflow Analyses and Sewer System Evaluation Survey (Revised January 1993)*). A Flow Removal Report must be submitted to MWRA and the MWRA Advisory Board, showing how at least a four to one gallon reduction of inflow will be achieved within the transporting community or further downstream. Projects identified for inflow reduction cannot be projects that are being funded as part of MWRA's Infiltration/Inflow reduction program.

- The applicant, if it is an entity other than a single-family home and has a proposed wastewater flow of over 90,000 gallons per year, shall address within its application the consistency of the requested connection with the objectives of their community of origin and transporting community's Local Water Supply and Wastewater Management Plan. For plan contents, refer to the outline in Attachment A. Single-family homes or entities utilizing less than 90,000 gallons of wastewater flow per year are exempt from this requirement. MWRA may reject applications that propose connections that are inconsistent with Local Water Supply and Wastewater Management Plans. MWRA may reject applications for those cases in which the community does not have a Water Supply and Wastewater Management Plan.

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Process, continued

D. Approvals:

The sewer connection application must be approved first by the MWRA Advisory Board and then by the Board of Directors. Sewer hook-up approvals hereunder shall not affect the applicant's other legal or regulatory obligations, such as the need to obtain any necessary approval of the Department of Environmental Protection or to observe additional sewer hook-up approval procedures established by individual user communities.

E. Reservation of Rights:

The MWRA reserves its rights under its enabling act and its Municipal Permit program to disallow any new sewer connection if the MWRA determines that the allowance of such a connection would be contrary to sound wastewater system management.

F. Actions Required Prior to Connection:

Applicants may choose either Approach 1 or 2 to complete the flow removal work.

Approach 1) An applicant must complete the following flow removal actions before it may connect:

- Complete the work described in the Flow Removal Report
- Submit a Flow Removal Completion Report to MWRA and the MWRA Advisory Board documenting completion of flow removal work. No connection may be made until the flow removal work is completed and the MWRA staff and the MWRA Advisory Board have accepted the Flow Removal Completion Report

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Process, continued

Approach 2) An applicant for a connection may chose to complete the requirements stated above or may complete the requirements set forth below prior to connection to the MWRA system:

- Provide payment of at least 100% of the estimated cost to complete the work described in the flow removal report as follows:
 - To one or more communities which will be performing the work under an agreement to complete the work within one year of payment; or
 - To MWRA if the work is to be performed other than under an agreement with one or more communities. Such payment will be held in an interest-bearing escrow account as determined by MWRA until the work is completed. MWRA will return the escrowed funds and interest after the work is completed and upon vote of the MWRA Board of Directors and the MWRA Advisory Board. If the work is not completed within one year of payment into escrow, MWRA may release the escrowed funds and interest to the transporting community (s).

No connection may take place until payment has been made under this provision and the MWRA Board of Directors and the MWRA Advisory Board have voted to approve the payment.

Charges

New sewer connections under this policy shall be subject to the charges applicable to Requests for Sewer Service to Locations Outside MWRA Sewer Service Area, including entrance fees, annual user charges, and connection costs.

Attachment A

Local Water Supply and Wastewater Management Plan Outline

Water Supply

- Identify existing and potential water supplies in the community, zone II delineations, Interim Wellhead Protection Areas, and/or Zones A and B delineations for surface water sources, and watershed boundaries.
- Identification of all water supply options, including local, regional and conservation options.

Wastewater

- Describe existing wastewater systems. This should incorporate information in any existing DEP approved water supply and wastewater facilities plan.
- Identification of all wastewater disposal options.
- A discussion of the DEP wastewater reuse policy, as applied to the community should be included

Regional Plans

- Describe any existing regional or watershed plans and how these plans relate to the plans of the local community. Refer to reports and plans developed by regional planning agencies, local watershed associations, and other appropriate regional and/or non-governmental agencies.

Future Plans

- Analysis of existing zoning and master plan, including EOEa build-out analysis available from Massachusetts GIS.
- Identification of future water and wastewater needs and various alternatives for meeting these needs.
- Summary and evaluation of water infrastructure plans based on build-out and future needs.
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- Overall summary based on above information.

Analysis and Conclusions

- An action plan, with timetables for implementation of the recommendations of the plan, a budget, and identification of people responsible for implementation.