

**City of Hermitage**  
**Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Program**

**Instructions:**

1. You must hire a licensed and bonded contractor from the attached list.
2. Notify the City Sewer Inspector of who is doing the work and when it is scheduled to be done.  
(leave voicemail, if not available)
3. After completion of the replacement work, a \$100.00 re-inspection fee is to be paid for the final inspection and to receive the Certificate of Compliance with approval by the City Sewer Inspector.
4. Submit the Contractor's invoice marked paid and copy of the Certificate of Compliance to:

**By mail:**

City of Hermitage

Water Pollution Control Plant

2133 Broadway Avenue

Hermitage, PA 16148

or

**Drop off:**

City of Hermitage Municipal Building

Finance Counter

800 N. Hermitage Road

Hermitage, PA 16148

**\*PLEASE INCLUDE WHO THE REIMBURSEMENT CHECK SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO AND THE ADDRESS WHERE THE REIMBURSEMENT SHOULD BE MAILED.**

**PLEASE ALLOW 2-3 WEEKS FOR PROCESSING.**

5. The amount of reimbursement will be \$17.50 per linear foot of the lateral sewer line as determined by the City Sewer Inspector, but in no case will reimbursement exceed a total of \$1000.00.

**\*Please direct any questions to Scott Pierce, City Sewer Inspector at**

**724-981-0800 Ext. 3111 or by email at [spierce@hermitage.net](mailto:spierce@hermitage.net)**

## **SANITARY SEWER REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM**

**PLEASE FILL OUT INFORMATION WHERE REIMBURSEMENT CHECK SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE AND ADDRESS TO WHERE CHECK IS TO BE SENT.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

\*RETURN THIS FORM WITH A COPY OF THE MARKED PAID CONTRACTOR INVOICE\*

## **FOUNDATION DRAINS REMOVAL/SUMP PUMP INSTALLATION**

### **REIMBURSEMENT POLICY**

The policy of City reimbursement to property owners for a portion of the costs associated with required removal of foundation (French) drains from the sanitary sewer system is based on the following:

- Inflow of ground, storm, and extraneous water into the City of Hermitage sanitary sewer system contributes to the problem of increased flows that require treatment at the City's wastewater treatment plant; and
- This inflow increases the cost of treatment and can result in overflows at pump stations and the treatment plant creating environmental issues; and
- This inflow can result in both ground water and sewage backing up into basements; and
- A significant source of inflow is from foundation drains being connected to the sanitary sewer system through basement drains instead of being connected to a basement sump and pumped outside to a stormwater system; and
- Connection of foundation drains is not permitted under Chapter 18, Section 148 of the Hermitage Code of Ordinances; and
- Removal of foundation drains, and the installation of a sump pump is the responsibility of the property owner; and
- The Hermitage Board of Commissioners, recognizing the importance of reducing inflow and the significant inflow that results from the illegal connection of foundation drains, is willing to assist property owners with the cost of foundation drain removal and sump pump installation.

For reimbursement to occur, the Hermitage Water Pollution Control Department Inspector, or a designee, must verify, prior to any removal work commencing, that the foundation drains do connect to the sanitary sewer system and removal is required.

The amount contributed by the City to the property owner shall be the cost of the work, but in no case will the reimbursement exceed \$1,500.00 per property.

Reimbursement will be authorized only after completion of the removal of the foundation drains and/or installation of the sump pump and final inspection and approval by the Water Pollution Control Inspector or a designee.

## **CITY OF HERMITAGE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

All City of Hermitage property owners who wish to sell, convey, assign, transfer or acquire property on which a structure is located that connects to the City sanitary sewer system must first obtain a Certificate of Compliance. The **seller** is responsible for obtaining the certificate. **Once issued, the Certificate of Compliance is valid for a period of twenty-four (24) months.**

Before the property transaction is completed the property owner or agent must obtain a Certificate of Compliance. The first step is to complete the application form and pay the fee. An initial inspection will be conducted within ten (10) business days. The inspection will determine whether the property has any illegal connections (downspouts and/or sump pumps) to the sanitary sewer system and if the lateral connection (line from the building to the City main line) is operating properly (without leaking or sustaining infiltration by groundwater).

If the initial inspection reveals no illegal connections and a properly operating lateral connection the Certificate of Compliance will be issued; however, if the initial inspection determines that a problem exists that would prevent the issuance of the Certificate, the inspector will advise the owner or owner's agent, the nature of the problem. The owner must complete corrective action prior to obtaining the Certificate of Compliance. After corrective action is completed, a follow-up inspection must be done by the City. There is a \$100.00 fee for the second inspection, due before the Certificate can be issued.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Why is a Certificate of Compliance required?**

On March 24, 2004 the Hermitage Board of Commissioners enacted Ordinance 3-2004 which requires a Certificate of Compliance. The Ordinance was enacted to comply with a Consent Order and Agreement between the City of Hermitage and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The purpose is to reduce the overloading of the City's sanitary sewer system by removing storm water and ground water from the system.

### **What is the problem if sump pumps or downspouts are connected to a sanitary sewer?**

Sanitary sewers are designed to accept a rather constant flow of sewage from buildings and household water. The sudden, rapid flow of rainwater from roofs, patios, driveways etc. can overload the system causing them to back up into buildings and overflow and pollute streams and rivers. Downspouts and sump pumps are illegal connections to the City's sanitary sewer system.

**What is a lateral connection?**

The sewer lateral is the line that connects a building to the City's sanitary sewer line. The lateral is owned and maintained by the building owner.

**What does it mean when a lateral is not operating properly?**

If a lateral has been damaged over time it can become obstructed with roots and debris. This condition not only permits groundwater to enter the sanitary sewer system, it can cause sewage to back up into the building.

**What regulations are violated by making illegal connections to a sanitary sewer system?**

To prevent the overloading of the sanitary sewer system, illegal connections and improperly operating lateral connections to the system are not permitted. Regulators enforcing this matter are:

- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- City of Hermitage Code of Ordinances

**Who is impacted by the Certificate of Compliance requirement?**

All property owners in the City of Hermitage who have property connected to the Hermitage sanitary sewer system and who wish to sell, convey, assign, transfer or acquire the property.

**What happens during an initial inspection?**

After the owner completes the application for a Certificate of Compliance and pays the fee, an inspection is scheduled for within ten (10) business days. At that time a City inspector will televise the lateral connection to assure that it is operating properly and check to make sure there are no illegal connections. Occasionally there are properties where televising the lateral connection cannot be accomplished due to access or size issues. In those cases, the City will perform all other inspections for illegal connections. The City is not obliged to televise the lateral connection if it is not feasible to do so.

**What if it is determined that I have an illegal connection or improperly operating lateral connection?**

After completing the initial inspection, if an illegal connection or improperly operating lateral connection is discovered, the inspector will notify the property owner of the specific problem. The problem must be corrected within a specified time and, until corrected and reinspected, no Certificate of Compliance can be issued.

**Who is responsible for the corrective action?**

Any corrective action that is required is the **sole responsibility of the property owner**. The City of Hermitage has a Lateral Reimbursement Program that will reimburse property owners who replace laterals at the rate of \$17.50 per foot up to \$1,000. The inspector can provide additional information on this program. Any work done that involves connecting to the City system must be performed by a City approved contractor.

More information concerning inspections, corrective action and lateral reimbursement can be obtained by calling the Water Pollution Control Dept. at 724-347-4941.

11/2024