

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

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President

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TO: Agencies owning and operating separate sanitary sewer systems within the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's boundaries

SUBJECT: Creation of a new Infiltration and Inflow Control Program to address the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit requirement

In an effort to devise reasonable and meaningful solutions to excessive Infiltration and Inflow (I/I), the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) will be hosting four public meetings to facilitate further dialogue and explain parameters of a new I/I program:

| Date and Time | Region | Address |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| February 6, 2014 7:00 – 9:00 pm | West Central Municipal Conference | Northlake City Hall 55 E. North Avenue Northlake, IL 60164 |
| February 19, 2014 7:00 – 9:00 pm | Southwest Conference of Mayors | Chicago Ridge Village Hall 10455 S. Ridgeland Avenue Chicago Ridge, IL 60415 |
| February 24, 2014 7:00 – 9:00 pm | Northwest Municipal Conference | Mount Prospect Village Hall 50 S. Emerson Street Mount Prospect, IL 60056 |
| March 13, 2014 7:00 – 9:00 pm | South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association | 1904 W. 174th Street East Hazel Crest, IL 60429 |

As you may be aware, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has imposed a special condition in the recently-issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for the MWRD's Water Reclamation Plants. The special condition requires tributary local separate sanitary sewer agencies like yours to implement measures in addition to those required under the 1985 Sewer Summit Agreement if excessive I/I in the system causes or contributes to sanitary sewer overflows or basement backups.

In anticipation of this requirement, the MWRD formed an Advisory Technical Panel (ATP) in November 2011. The ATP is comprised of members from the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency, IEPA, local sewer system owners (municipalities, local sanitary districts, townships, and utility companies), engineering consultants, and MWRD staff. The area's four Councils of Government recommended the municipal members of the ATP, and they were tasked with developing a collaborative, transparent, stakeholder-supported I/I Control Program.

The MWRD's current sanitary sewer rehabilitation program requirements are based on the 1985 Sewer Summit Agreement and related Article 6-5 of the Manual of Procedures for the Administration of the MWRD Sewer Permit Ordinance. The current program is outdated and considered inadequate for I/I control due to regulatory developments, research/studies, advances in technology, obsolete cost structure, and new operational challenges.

The ATP met several times over the last two years to evaluate the regulatory requirements, the MWRD's operational challenges due to increasing wet weather flows, the economics involved in the control of I/I, available technology, and related issues. Information related to the ATP meetings along with a wealth of technical and regulatory information is available at www.mwrld.org > Business with Us > Infiltration/Inflow Control Programs.

Recommendations for a new I/I Control Program have been provided by the ATP. The MWRD will incorporate these recommendations into an ordinance subject to the approval of the MWRD Board of Commissioners that will be applicable to all tributary sanitary sewer system agencies. The ATP members and the MWRD believe that the program will address the MWRD's NPDES permit requirements when implemented, and that hesitation to adopt it or lack of agreement could lead to enforcement measures from state/federal regulators, higher tax/rate-payer costs and higher overall I/I source removal costs to system owners.

The ATP hosted a meeting for owners of local sewers on January 8, 2014 to discuss recommendations for the new I/I Control Program. The positive discussion at this meeting indicated a general understanding of the issues and the path forward to address these issues. The MWRD will host the four public meetings to facilitate further dialogue and explain parameters of the new program being contemplated.

We invite you to participate in this process by attending at least one of the scheduled meetings. Please contact Mr. William Sheriff, P.E., Assistant Director of Engineering, at (312) 751-3169 if you would like further information.

Very truly yours,


Kathleen Therese Meany
President

WSS/JPM/AB/ci

cc: David St. Pierre
Ronald M. Hill
Catherine A. O'Connor
Councils of Government
Members of the ATP