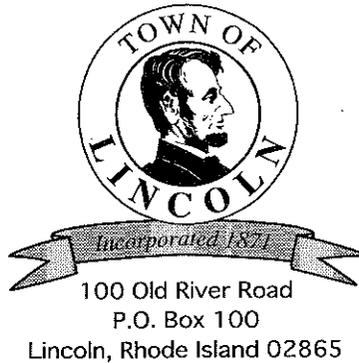


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Central Services Division
Building and Zoning Division
Engineering Division
Parks and Recreation Division
Sewer Maintenance and Operations
Animal Control
Public Buildings and Property
Tree Warden



Telephone 333-1100

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

Dear Customer:

The Town of Lincoln's Department of Public Works will be performing an Infiltration/Inflow Survey in parts of the Town. The purpose of the survey is to locate sources of infiltration/inflow in the sewer system. Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) is water that enters the sewers from cracked or defective pipes, as well as from private yard drains, roof leaders, and sump pumps. I/I can overload the sewer system causing backups, flooded basements, or overflows to the streets. It also increases sewer rates because the I/I is transported to the Narragansett Bay Commission's wastewater treatment facility, where it is unnecessarily treated.

To identify sources of I/I, the Town's engineering consultants, BETA Group, Inc., will be conducting televised inspection of the sewer system, manhole inspections, building surveys, smoke testing and dyed water testing in your area over the next six months.

For the **building survey** effort, a project team will visit your building or home to inspect the **exterior and interior** (typically just the basement) of the building. The interior inspection will only take about 15 minutes. It will be conducted between the hours of 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM, Monday through Saturday.

Dye testing involves putting dyed water into downspouts, roof leaders, yard drains and possibly catch basins. The dye is non-toxic and water soluble and poses no risk to individuals or pets.

Smoke testing involves blowing a white, harmless, odorless, non-staining and residue-free smoke into the sanitary sewer in the street and then observing where the smoke leaks out. Additional information will be provided prior to smoke testing in your area.

Members of the inspection teams will always carry and prominently display project identification badges.

For more information or to ask questions about the survey, please call:

BETA Group, Inc.

315 Norwood Park South
Norwood, MA 02062

(781) 255-1982

Mr. Michael Gagnon
Director,
Department of Public Works
Town of Lincoln
100 Old River Road
Lincoln, RI 02865
(401) 333-8422

We appreciate your cooperation in our effort to improve sewer service in your neighborhood.

Town of Lincoln
Department of Public Works

Sump Pump Program

The Department of Public Works is charged with the responsibility of protecting and maintaining the sewage collection system. One of these responsibilities is to ensure that all water discharged to the sewer system is sewage and not “clean” flow, such as drainage that should be discharged to a drain.

Sump pumps that are connected to the sewer contribute to excessive flows in the collection system during rain events. In addition, this high flow is sent to the Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) for treatment, **resulting in increased sewer rates to all residents**. This is a serious situation that the Department of Public Works is working to correct.

Adding flow from a sump pump to the sewer system is against the law. It is not illegal to have a sump pump, but you may not have the sump pump discharge into the sewer.

In areas where the flow metering suggests the presence of illegal connections, specific properties will be inspected to ascertain that the existing conditions are accurately established. The Town’s Sewer Ordinance in Article 4 §207-47 prohibits the “connection of roof downspouts, exterior foundation drains, areaway drains, or other sources of surface runoff or groundwater to a building sewer or building drain which in turn is connected directly or indirectly to a public sewer”.

Once a property is identified for the potential of having a prohibited connection, the Town will issue a notification and will make the necessary arrangement for the inspection.

One of the stated goals of the study is to eliminate all the existing connections and it is best accomplished with the assistance of the property owners. During the study period, the Town will not take any action against home and property owners for having inappropriate connection if the existence of these connections is brought to the attention of the Town. If the connections are discovered through the various steps of the SSES program, the property owner may be subject to the penalties described in Article IV §207-47 of the Sewer Ordinance.

The Department of Public Works understands the predicament that many homeowners could be facing. The sump pump may have been installed by the previous owner or installed by a contractor without the homeowner understanding the ramification. To achieve the success the Town is aiming for, it is asked that property owners provide information on existing sump pumps and illegal connections.

In response, the Department of Public Works is creating a Sump Pump Amnesty Program. During this program, homeowners with sump pumps connected to the sewage collection system are encouraged to contact the Department of Public Works.

The Department of Public Works asks that you call the Public Works Department with any questions. Please call the DPW at **401.333.8425** or **401.333.8422**.

Michel Gagnon,
Public Works Director
Lincoln Town Hall
100 Old River Road
Lincoln, RI 02865

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Program description

Background:

Starting in the mid-1980's, the Town of Lincoln constructed a new sanitary sewer system to serve areas that were without such service. During the last twenty-five years, a number of subdivisions were constructed, resulting in a network of sewers measuring tens of thousands of feet in length. Important components of the collection system are the pump stations which pump the wastewater from low lying areas into the gravity sewers that eventually convey the sewage to the facilities of the Narragansett Bay Commission for treatment.

Present status:

All infrastructures, including sewers and pump stations, are subject to aging and deterioration, irrespective of the level of maintenance. While the life expectancy of sewers is generally 50-years or more, the mechanical and the electrical elements of pump stations require upgrade or replacement approximately every 25 years.

The deterioration of sewers and manholes is generally exhibited through the increase in the flows in them. These increases may come from the infiltration of ground water or from connections that are against the rules and regulations: roof downspouts, yard drains, sump pumps and the like. The increased flows result in the elevated wear of the pump stations, in increased electrical costs of pumping, in elevated maintenance requirements and in the increased cost of treatment. Since all the collected wastewater, groundwater and rainwater is treated by the Bay Commission, the increased flows automatically increase the bills the Town receives from the Commission.

The program:

In order to define the work required for improving pump stations and reducing the non-sewage flows, the Town is undertaking a two-part study. Part 1 is the condition survey of all the pump stations and part 2 is the evaluation of the sewers in the Town.

The evaluation of the pump stations will produce very little visible activity. One or two individuals from an engineering company or from the Town will visit each station, inspect their interior, assess the conditions of the electrical and mechanical components and produce a report. This activity will have no impact on the public or on anyone in the neighborhoods.

The evaluation of the sewers, however, requires far more work, as described below.

Program specifics:

There are a number of steps in the SSES (Sewer System Evaluation Study) and some of them will require public participation and awareness. The first step, already under way, is metering of the flows in selected manholes. The only visible activity in this step is the installation and the removal of electronic meters in twelve manholes and the weekly retrieval of the accumulated data. This work will last some ten weeks but it will not affect anyone directly.

The metering will result in the determination of the excessive flows. Areas of leaking pipes, locations of drainage and other inappropriate and/or illegal interconnections will be identified. The information collected will then be used for further investigations, such as smoke testing and house inspections which are described below.

Another step is the inspection of manholes. Similar to the metering, the activity will not affect anyone, but it will be far more visible. Approximately 800 manholes will be inspected by a crew of 2-3 people. They will open the manholes, inspect their interior, take photographs and present the findings in a report. The work will take several weeks to complete. There may be a minor inconvenience to the motoring public, as the manholes are generally located in the middle of the roads and minimal interference with traffic can be anticipated.

Another step is smoke testing. This work is undertaken in areas where the metering indicates that rainwater is entering the sanitary sewers. This can happen through interconnection with storm drains, the connection to yard drains or the direct connection to the roof downspouts. The procedure is as follows:

A section of the sewer is isolated by installing plugs, then forcing smoke into a manhole. If no interconnection exists, there will be no smoke visible; if interconnections exist, the smoke will come out of the catch basins, or the yard drain or the gutters. If the plumbing is not correct, the smoke can find its way into buildings, an obvious concern to all.

In order to assure that the process is kept under control and not cause undue alarm, close cooperation with home and property owners will be required. Before the smoke testing is undertaken in any specific area, owners/residents of the potentially impacted properties will be contacted. Whenever possible, the work will be coordinated so that people can be present during the operation.

The last activities that will affect home owners and/or residents involve the inspection of selected buildings. In areas where the flow metering suggests the presence of illegal connections, specific properties will be inspected to ascertain that the existing conditions are

accurately established. The Town's Sewer Ordinance in Section 4-9 prohibits the "connection of roof downspouts, exterior foundation drains, areaway drains, or other sources of surface runoff or groundwater to a building sewer or building drain which in turn is connected directly or indirectly to a public sewer".

Once a property is identified for the potential of having a prohibited connection, the Town will issue a notification and will make the necessary arrangement for the inspection.

Mutual aid and cooperation:

To achieve the success the Town is aiming for, the cooperation of all involved is necessary. This cooperation is in the following areas:

- A) Timely notification of neighborhoods before smoke testing is undertaken and the availability of Town officials to explain the program in details.
- B) The establishment of house inspection protocol that assures that the work is performed efficiently and in a courteous manner.
- C) Property owners providing information on existing sump pumps and illegal connections.

The last item requires further comments. As stated earlier, the "connection of roof downspouts, exterior foundation drains, areaway drains, or other sources of surface runoff or groundwater to a building sewer or building drain which in turn is connected directly or indirectly to a public sewer." One of the stated goals of the study is to eliminate all the existing connections and it is best accomplished with the assistance of the property owners. **During the study period, the Town will not take any action against home and property owners for having an inappropriate connection if the existence of these connections is brought to the attention of the Town. If the connections are discovered through the various steps of the SSES program, the property owner may be subject to the penalties described in Article IV § 207-47 of the Sewer Ordinance.**