



ISSUE UPDATE

SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW (SSO) OVERFLOW CONTROL PROGRAM

SMOKE TESTING INVESTIGATION

(Note: Please see the reverse side for information on the Water District Agreement recently entered with Caledonia Charter Township)

Introduction

The March 2006 Issue Update introduced the City's program to control overflows of untreated wastewater from the sanitary sewer system under wet weather conditions. Our current program efforts are focusing on identifying and eliminating inflow, or storm water, entering the sanitary sewer system. Storm water may enter the sanitary sewers from improper roof drain connections, catch basins or area drains (including sewer cleanouts with missing or leaking covers), leaky manholes covers and interconnections with storm sewers. Surface runoff from storm water should be routed to the separate storm sewers, which drain directly to the river. The sanitary sewers and wastewater treatment plant are not designed to handle the peak flow rates that result from storm water runoff. The primary techniques we are using to identify storm water inflow sources include: manhole inspections, sewer TV inspections, dye testing and smoke testing.

What is smoke testing?

A white, non-toxic smoke is blown into the sanitary sewer through a manhole in the street. The smoke will exit the sewer anywhere there is an opening to the atmosphere. The smoke should exit through building vent pipes that typically extend above the roof level.

Smoke should not enter your building if your plumbing is proper. If the smoke can enter your home, then so can sewer gas. Please assure that all drains, sinks and other plumbing fixtures have water in their traps. Pour a quart of water into each basement floor drain to assure its water trap is full. Assure all cleanout caps or plugs are properly installed and airtight.

The smoke being used is not a smoke from combustion, but is a mist containing a high amount of moisture that obscures vision. It should dissipate within 10 to 15 minutes and is non-staining. The smoke is harmless from a health standpoint, but should be avoided as a precaution.

City personnel will be in the area being tested. If any smoke does enter your building, please notify the field crew conducting the test. Do **NOT** call the fire department or 911 unless there is an actual fire. The field crew will assist in identifying where the testing smoke is entering the building and what corrections are needed to keep sewer gas from venting into the building.

Most defects revealed by the smoke testing for residential properties are relatively easy and inexpensive to correct. We ask for your cooperation and assistance in carrying out this program. Notices will be mailed to residents in areas to be smoke tested. Updates will be posted on the city web site and the Owosso Community Channel (cable 16), and provided as press releases.

WATER DISTRICT AGREEMENT

City of Owosso and Caledonia Charter Township

In June the Owosso City Council and the Caledonia Charter Township Board unanimously approved a Water District Agreement that became effective July 1st. The agreement is patterned after a former agreement between the parties dating back to 1975 (terminated in 1996). Key provisions of the agreement are briefly presented below:

- **Retail Service:** The City will provide retail water service to customers in the Township Water Districts, when their property abuts a water main and the customer applies for service, in the same manner as to customers in the City of Owosso, including individual customer metering and billing, maintenance of water lines, and provision of peak flows for fire fighting.
- **Water Districts:** Service provision is limited to customers in defined water districts. Four districts are established in the initial agreement. District boundaries may be expanded or separate districts may be added by mutual agreement between the City and Township.
 - ❖ District I: Area between Owosso and Corunna north of the river but south of M-21.
 - ❖ District II: Area between Owosso and Corunna south of the river but north of the railroad.
 - ❖ District III: Area on the north side of M-21 from the Owosso City Limit (Gould St.) east to Escott Road bounded on the North by a line “parallel to and 100 feet south of the north line of Sections 15, 16, 17, and 18” (i.e. north section line is along the line of E. North Street in Owosso if extended to the east-west portion of Copas Road or just under one mile north of M-21).
 - ❖ District IV: An existing service area on the north side of Owosso including Velma Ave and the east side of North Hickory to 200 feet north of Velma Ave.
- **Rates:** Monthly retail charges to customers in the Water Districts will continue at two times the in-City retail rate. However, 25% of that revenue will be captured in a “Caledonia Utility Fund” and restricted to making replacements and improvements to the distribution system in the Township. Charges for new service connections will include established City connection charges and such charges as the Township might adopt. A portion of the connection charge may also be dedicated to the Caledonia Utility Fund.
- **Water Main Extensions:** The Township is responsible for extension of the water distribution system within established districts including engineering, finance, easements etc. Plans for extension are subject to City and State review and approval for conformance to established engineering standards and practices.