

**SSO Guidance Committee
Lateral Committee
Updated: January 4, 2005**

PURPOSE

Minimize Impacts of Lateral SSOs to Public Health
Minimize Dangers to Environment
Secondary Impacts of Lateral Problems to Primary Goal of Eliminating SSOs from Mains and Interceptors
Secondary Impacts of Lateral Problems to O&M, Capital Programs and Funding

DEFINITIONS

Lateral
Upper Lateral
Lower Lateral
Right of Way Lateral
Encroachment Lateral
Easement Lateral
Shared Lateral – Laterals with Multiple Owners
Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO)
Sanitary Sewer Back-Up (SSB)
Private SSO

ISSUES

Lateral Maintenance

Failure of Property Owners to Maintain Lateral
Inadequate Access for Lateral Cleaning
Root Intrusion
 Root Intrusion from Upper Lateral to Main
 Root Intrusion at Connection
Inflow/Infiltration
 Impacts Collection System Capacity during Rain Event
 Increases Treatment Costs
Failure of Plumbers to Retrieve Material Cleaned from Lateral
 No Coordination between Plumber and Collection System Owner during Plumber Lateral Maintenance
No Lateral Maintenance Record-Keeping

Impacts of Lateral Repair and Replacement Activities

Impacts to Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys
Impacts to Underground Infrastructure such as Water Distribution, Fiber Optics, Electrical, Sewer Main and Connection Quality

Impacts of Lateral Responsibility on O&M and CIP Funding

- Claims from Property Owners
- Cost for Emergency Response including SSO Response, Blockage Response, and Emergency Repairs
- Cost of Inspection and Condition Assessment
- Cost for Rehabilitation/Replacement of Laterals

Funding Sources and Legal Use of Public Sewer Funds

- Public Financing and Funding Programs for Lateral Maintenance Rare
- Use of Public Funds on Private Property Poses Significant Political, Legal, and Liability Challenges

Historical Policy of Collection System Owner

- Expectations of Property Owners for Lateral Maintenance and Influence on Policy Makers

Political Opposition from Real Estate Community and Property Owners

- Policy of Lateral Inspection and Repair at Home Sale Impacts Speed of Sale

Permission to Perform Lateral Inspection Activity and Right to Access Property (Permits)

- Smoke Testing
- Inspection

Impacts to Public Health

- Exfiltration from Lateral into Groundwater

Approvals for Rehabilitation Techniques

- Sliplining Not Currently Approved Under Uniform Building Code

POLICIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Materials and Construction Standards

- Bedding
- Clean-outs
- Acceptable Pipe Materials for Any Lateral Construction
- Acceptable Rehabilitation Methods
- Testing and Inspection of New, Repaired, Rehabilitated, or Replaced Laterals

Designation of Laterals

- Tracking Ownership of Laterals
 - Single Owner versus Shared
- Tracking whether laterals are in Right-of-Way, Easement, or Encroachment

Use of Lateral

- Define and Communicate Prohibitive Discharges to Laterals (FOG, hazardous chemicals, etc.)

Ownership

- Collection System Owner Owns Upper Lateral, Lower Lateral, and Connection to Main
- Collection System Owner Owns Lower Lateral and Connection to Main
- Collection System Owner Owns Connection to Main
- Property Owners Owns Entire Lateral and Connection to Main
- Laterals in Right-of-Way, Easement, or Encroachment

SSO Reporting

- SSOs caused by blockage in Upper Lateral

Contained on private property – Public agency should report if made aware of overflow. Not classified as a public agency overflow and public agency is not responsible for impacts.

Private Overflows to ROW – Public agency should report if made aware of overflow. Not classified as a public agency overflow and public agency is not responsible for impacts.

SSOs caused by blockage in Lower Lateral

Contained on private property - Public agency should report if made aware of overflow.

Not classified as a public agency overflow if lateral is owned by private property owner and public agency is not responsible for impacts.

Classified as a public agency overflow if lateral is owned by public agency.

Overflows to ROW

Not classified as a public agency overflow if lateral is owned by private property owner

Classified as a public agency overflow if lateral is owned by public agency.

SSOs caused by blockage in a Public Main flowing through lateral and exiting on private property

Contained on private property – Defined as a Sanitary Sewer Back-Up – Should be reported as a public agency overflow.

Overflows to ROW – Defined as a Sanitary Sewer Overflow – Should be reported as a public agency overflow.

Emergency Response

SSOs caused by blockage in Upper Lateral

Contained on private property

Private Overflows to ROW

SSOs caused by blockage in Lower Lateral

Contained on private property

Private Overflows to ROW

SSOs caused by blockage in Main flowing through lateral and exiting on private property

Contained on private property

Private Overflows to ROW

Policy on Cost Reimbursement

Reimbursement for public agency emergency response activities on SSOs caused Private Overflows

Requirement for Licensed Plumber's Report

Maintenance and Repair Activities

Upper Lateral

Lower Lateral

Connection

Notification of Private Lateral Cleaning

Lateral Maintenance Program for Public Agency-Owned Portions of Lateral

Rehabilitation and Replacement Activities

Upper Lateral

Lower Lateral

Connection

Saddle at Connections

Goal for rehabilitation: Adequate to stop future problems in sewer main arising from lateral
Enforcement for Private Homeowner Maintenance/Repair/Rehab/Replacement of Known Lateral Problems
Use of Backflow Preventers or Pop-Up Valves in Low-lying Areas Prone to Lateral Overflows

Maintenance of valves or preventers (Once per Year?)
Normally open versus normally closed

STRATEGIES

Create a Collection System Permit

Require Standardization of Lateral Condition Assessment at the agency level

Require Inspection and Appraisal of Repair –

Inspection at time of property sale or major remodel to identify deficiencies and/or inappropriate connections to the private lateral

Ensure inspections are legitimate

Certify private inspectors

Use public agency employees

Require date stamping on video

Community must address public outreach program (What to do, who to contact regarding spill, backup, new construction, time of sale, etc...)

Reporting requirements for backups and spills on private side that was caused by (main, public lateral, private lateral)

Prohibitive discharges of (FOG, chemicals, flammables, etc...)

Legal authority to provide emergency response, cleanup, inspection, and cost recovery for spills, blockages, or damage creating an environmental nuisance or health hazard as a result of problem occurring within the private lateral.

Legal authority for ingress/egress for instances stated above and necessary to protect publicly owned assets, or eliminate environmental nuisance and/or public health risks.

Lateral replacement or rehab requirements based upon inspection findings and determination of whether or not the lateral meets minimum operational standards.

New building, rehabilitation or replacement construction must be adequate to prevent future problems in sewer main (construction standards needed in guidance).

Ordinance identifying what part of lateral is publicly owned and what is privately owned.

Change Legal Authority/Ordinances

Draft a Model Ordinance for Agencies (Gather from industry)

Inspection Associated with Change in Title

Homeowner Responsibility for Causing SSOs in Public Mains

Requirement for Inspection and Rehab for any SSO that leaves owners Property

Private Sewer Systems – Respond to Clean, Correct, and Report SSOs and Responsibility

Define Maintenance and Repair Responsibilities

Include Language that Lateral Shall be Properly Maintained

Cite impacts to publicly owned collection system and treatment facilities to which lateral connects

Strategies to Require Lateral Inspection (CCTV, Pressure Test, Smoke Test)

Initial Inspection – Final video inspection prior to move-in.

Inspection at Sale
Periodic Inspection
Tie Replacement of Lower Lateral to Increase in Value of Property
Requirements for Plumbers
Licensed Plumbers Report – Communication of location of problem causing lateral back-up
Notification of Private Lateral Cleaning
Requirement for reporting any cleaning that results in debris pushed into the collection system
Ensure Protection of Public Collection System from Problems Arising on Private Property
Allow for cost recovery of response activities caused by private property problems
Create legal right for access to public agency assets on private property (ingress and egress)

Sewer Lateral Insurance

Leverage Technology Advances

Investigate *Innovative Inspection Methods for Laterals Research* at Louisiana Tech

Educational Outreach for Property Owners

Clean Up Efforts for Homeowners – Basic Model

Communication of Prohibitive Discharges (FOG, hazardous chemicals, etc.)

Evaluate Cost-Benefit of Lateral Replacement, Rehabilitation, or Repair

Agencies have economy of scale

What is the effectiveness in reduction of blockages, problems, and I/I

Note: Review City of Santa Ana Lateral R/R Program