

**REGIONAL WATER RESOURCE AGENCY
LATERAL MAINTENANCE AND
TAP CONNECTION POLICY**

MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY:

- 1) Generally, Regional Water Resource Agency (RWRA) accepts responsibility for the cleaning, maintenance and structural integrity of the sewer mains in the public right-of-way (ROW) and easements.
- 2) Generally, RWRA accepts responsibility for the structural integrity of the sewer tap (the portion of the lateral that is within the ROW/easement). However, RWRA is not responsible for the building sewer (the portion of the lateral that is outside the ROW/easement).
- 3) The property owner is held responsible for the cleaning and clearing of any obstruction of the building sewer and tap to the sewer main. The property owner will be held liable for any inappropriate and/or unauthorized discharges to the RWRA system, or any blockage or damage caused by such discharges. These discharges may include, but are not limited to, grease, debris, or other contaminants regulated in RWRA's *Wastewater User Regulation*. The property owner shall also maintain their building sewers in such a manner so as to prevent groundwater intrusion. Further, the property owner is prohibited from making any direct storm water connections (i.e. roof drains, foundation drains, sump discharges) to their building sewer (or any other portion of the sewer system), or reconnections unless specifically approved by the RWRA engineer in writing.

BUILDING SEWER CONNECTIONS, RE-CONNECTIONS OR REPAIRS:

The following steps shall be taken prior to making a new connection, re-connection or repair:

- 1) RWRA requires that a permit be obtained from RWRA for the construction, reconnection or repair of any building sewer that is significant enough in scope to require a State Plumbing Permit, or that is within 10 feet of a ROW/easement line. RWRA reserves the right to inspect any and all repairs, alterations or reconnections to the RWRA system including all building sewers and connections to the building sewers.
- 2) The Permit must be issued to a licensed, bonded plumber. The permit is required for the acceptance of the sewage from the property. It is the responsibility of the plumber to make the correct physical connection of the building sewer to the tap (See #6 below). Adjustments in the alignment/ profile (i.e. usage of bends) needed to correctly tie into a sewer tap shall be made outside of the ROW/easement line.
- 3) Prior to connecting on to the tap, the plumber shall expose the existing building sewer /tap at the ROW, and contact RWRA for a pre hook-up inspection. If the tap can not be found at the ROW, or if it was found to be in a deteriorated state, then RWRA may allow for excavation behind the curb. Once exposed, the plumber should properly clean the tap to remove any debris, and cut and remove any roots with proper equipment, so that the RWRA inspector can see the point of connection and/or televise the tap if deemed necessary, or requested by the owner. If it is apparent to the RWRA inspector, that the tap has not been cleared, re-inspection fees may be charged. If it is necessary for the RWRA inspector to

enter the excavation to access or adequately see the point of connection, trenching, and shoring safety access measures per OSHA standards must be provided by the plumber.

- 4) When performing repairs outside the ROW/easement, the plumber must contact RWRA for inspection, prior to connecting the repaired section to the existing building sewer, so that RWRA can see the point of connection and/or televise the line if deemed necessary, or requested by the owner. If it is necessary for the RWRA inspector to enter the excavation to access or adequately see the point of connection, trenching and shoring safety access measures per OSHA standards must be provided by the plumber.
- 5) If the tap, is found by RWRA to be in acceptable condition, the inspector may choose to remain at the site until the connection is made, and then make the final inspection. RWRA's inspector must visually inspect the connection that is made. If the tap is determined to be in unsatisfactory condition, a work order will be implemented by RWRA. for the reconstruction and/or repair of said tap.
- 6) The connection shall be performed with the approved fittings listed below:
 - i) Clay to Plastic—Donut or Fernco fitting (or approved equal), shrouded in 3,000 psi cone
 - ii) Plastic to Plastic S/35 to S/40 Glue on Coupling

NOTE: All connections and/or repairs to any building sewer or tap shall be made with RWRA approved water-tight fittings.

RWRA ASSISTANCE:

Relating to Cleaning, Maintenance, and Structural Integrity of the building sewer and/or tap:

- 1) Upon notification, RWRA will provide inspection and cleaning services of blocked sewer main as soon as possible, based on availability of RWRA personnel and/or equipment.
- 2) Before digging, the property owner and/or plumber is required by State Law to notify the Kentucky Underground Protection Inc., (“BUD”) (“811”) of intentions to dig.
- 3) Following the BUD phone call, RWRA shall attempt to perform the field tap locates within two (2) business days (unless emergency noted). RWRA will locate the taps to the best of the Agency’s ability, based on available information.
- 4) If a property owner or the plumber believes that a building sewer/tap has been cleared as well as possibly, but it appears that a problem remains due to structural failure of the tap (portion within the right-of-way or easement), assistance may be obtained from RWRA by observing the following procedures, in their respective order:
 - Step 1) An attempt must first be made to clear the line with conventional cleaning and root- cutting equipment.
 - Step 2) Expose the lateral at the ROW/easement and verify that blockage or back-up still exists at this location. If blockage still exists, again, use proper cleaning and/or proper-sized root-cutting equipment through the line in the direction of the main.
 - Step 3) If blockage still remains, contact RWRA to request assistance. If the property owner desires to have the portion of the lateral outside the ROW/easement televised, the property owner's written consent/waiver must be received by RWRA prior to performing the inspection. RWRA tv inspection is dependent on the availability of equipment and staff and acceptable condition of lateral.

- Step 4) If RWRA determines that a structural problem exists within the ROW/easement, a work order will be implemented by RWRA for reconstruction and/or repair of the tap *at* its original location.
- Step 5) However, if RWRA determines that the problem is not structural, and requires additional cleaning, RWRA will then notify the property owner or plumber of their findings, and require the additional cleaning at the expense of the plumber/property owner.

Relating to Sewer Connections or Re-connections:

- 1) Before digging, the property owner is required by State Law to notify the Kentucky Underground Protection Inc. ("BUD") ("811") of intentions to dig.
- 2) Following the BUD phone call, RWRA shall attempt to perform the field tap locates within two (2) business days (unless emergency noted). RWRA will field locate the tap to the best of the Agency's ability, based on available information. Plumbers must be prepared to excavate along the entire property line(s) as is necessary to locate the tap.
- 3) After exposure and cleaning of the tap by the plumber, RWRA must be called by the plumber for inspection. If requested by the owner, or if deemed necessary by RWRA, a camera inspection may also be performed on the tap, dependent on the availability of equipment and staff.
- 4) Plumbers are strongly encouraged to expose the tap at the right-of-way to verify location, elevation and condition of the tap before constructing the facility plumbing and building sewer.

DEMOLITION PERMITS:

During the demolition of any building that connects to the RWRA wastewater collection system, a permit must be acquired from RWRA. The demolition contractor shall expose the building sewers just outside the ROW/easement and contact RWRA for inspection prior to capping, so that RWRA can record the location of the tap, visually inspect the tap and/or televise the line if deemed necessary, and inspect the proper cap being placed on the line. If it is necessary for the RWRA inspector to enter the excavation to access or adequately see the point of connection, trenching and shoring safety access measures per OSHA standards must be provided by the demolition contractor.

RWRA INSPECTION RIGHTS:

RWRA's *Wastewater System User Regulation* states that RWRA has the right to inspect any connection/tie-in to the public system, in order to check the condition of the tap, gather information on tap locations, and/or to discourage illegal taps into the system by non-qualified persons.

GENERAL:

This Policy will not cover all situations and/or issues that may occur. In these instances, RWRA shall determine the correct and proper resolution, and the RWRA Engineer or his/her delegate's decision shall be deemed final.