

SER-001-022

Strathcona County
Municipal Policy Handbook

Sump Pump Discharge Interconnection

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Lead Role:	Chief Commissioner	Replaces:	N/A
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Administrative Responsibility:	Utilities		

Policy Statement

Strathcona County shall establish programs, guidelines and formal procedures to ensure residents comply with the regulations in place dealing with the improper connection of sump pump discharge lines to the sanitary sewer system.

Definitions

In this Policy:

“Act”	means the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c. M-26, as amended;
“Owner”	means a person who is in lawful possession of the property or who has the right to exercise control over the property;
“Illegal Interconnection”	means a connection between the discharge line of the sump pump to the sanitary sewer collection system;
“Inflow & Infiltration”	means extraneous flow of water entering the wastewater collection system either directly or indirectly from sources other than regular connections;
“Safety Codes Officer”	means a Safety Codes Officer designated as such pursuant to the Safety Codes Act, RSA 2000, c. S-1., as amended.

Guidelines

Pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, Strathcona County has an obligation to keep public works in a reasonable state of repair. Strathcona County has approved Engineering Standards and has passed bylaws designed to reduce the amount of extraneous water entering the sanitary sewer collection system.

Strathcona County shall encourage voluntary compliance with the various sump pump discharge regulations through a comprehensive program of education and cooperation prior to undertaking formal enforcement proceedings.

Roles and Responsibilities

1. Education Program

The Utilities Department shall conduct an awareness program and shall provide to Owners education literature on lot grading, down spout extensions, sump pump discharge and seasonal bypass approvals to promote awareness of the consequences of improper connections of sump pump discharge lines to the sanitary sewer system. The educational awareness program will be carried out through the following processes:

- Information pamphlets and letters to Owners and residents outlining the issues surrounding sump pump discharge
- The offer of assistance from Strathcona County representatives to meet on site to provide recommendations to residents respecting sump pump discharge issues
- On lot inspections

2. Inspection Program

The Utilities Department will provide on-lot communication with Owners to minimize foundation drainage via sump pump discharge on lot in an attempt to ensure the respective Owners understand their responsibilities with regard to on lot drainage and improper sump pump connections and to encourage voluntary compliance with these responsibilities. The Utilities Department will coordinate with and shall work with Safety Codes Officers in undertaking residential inspections to ensure compliance is being met.

The Department will undertake inspections in the following circumstances:

- a) upon the request of an Owner – respond to a residential concern where the homeowner is investigating where lot grading improvements can be achieved.
- b) upon receipt of a bona fide complaint – investigate Inflow and Infiltration reduction programs to address the concerns brought forward in the complaint.
- c) when, in the discretion of the Director, it is necessary or advisable to do so where circumstances may arise that need immediate attention to reduce risk and liability to the County. The Director may have information from the treatment plant that reveals the need to address extraneous flow from an area.

Priority for attention will be given to sites of greatest risk based on:

- a) Sub-Basins that are susceptible to Sewer overloading due to capacity limitations within lift-stations, collection or trunk mains. The information gathered to determine the limitations on an area would be historical performance data and / or flow monitoring information.
- b) Treatment & plant capacity. The treatment plant has the ability to bypass additional extraneous flow of Inflow and Infiltration entering the system into the North Saskatchewan River reducing the liability to ourselves.

3. Enforcement Program

Where an inspection has been conducted and has shown an Owner to have an Illegal Interconnection between the sump pump discharge lines and the sanitary sewer, the Utilities Department will:

- a) follow up to provide educational awareness information to the landowner respecting issues around interconnection between sump pump's discharge lines and the wastewater collection system to encourage the Owner to voluntarily bring the residence into compliance.
- b) where formal enforcement proceedings are necessary, they will be conducted as authorized by and in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Government Act.

4. Appeals Process

A person who receives a written order pursuant to formal enforcement proceedings is entitled to request Council to review that order in accordance with the provisions of the Act.