

**Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**

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May 9, 2012

**TO:** Municipalities, Townships, Sanitary Districts and other separate sewer system owners within the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) jurisdiction

**SUBJECT:** Creation of New Infiltration and Inflow Reduction Program  
MWRD webpage dedicated to infiltration/inflow issues

As you are aware, excessive infiltration and inflow (I/I) into our sanitary sewer systems is a serious problem that contributes to basement backups and sanitary sewer overflows. Because of this, draft NPDES permits to be issued to MWRD by IEPA now include special conditions requiring local sewer system owners to implement additional measures to reduce excessive I/I.

Due to this mandate, MWRD in the near future anticipates enacting additional regulations and requirements for sanitary sewer systems in order to reduce I/I. The draft permit enumerates remedial actions leading up to restrictions on additional sewer connection permits if excessive I/I is not effectively addressed.

Currently, the MWRD is working with local agencies, sanitary districts and consulting engineers through the Advisory Technical Panel (ATP) to lay the foundation for a new I/I reduction program that will satisfy the requirements of the NPDES permit. Regulations and requirements will evolve from the ATP as recommendations to the MWRD Board of Commissioners. It is expected that there will be a greater emphasis on private sector I/I, especially illegal connections (e.g., sump pump, downspouts, etc.) to the sanitary sewer. Because private property stormwater inflow into the sanitary sewer system is a major contributor to excess flow, local sewer system owners will likely be expected to conduct periodic inspections of private homes and businesses.

We are aware that in these financially difficult times, everyone is concerned about the impact of such regulations/requirements. The goal of the MWRD is to develop a program that will be implemented over time and in a cost-effective manner.

Pursuant to discussions at the ATP meetings, the MWRD has created a webpage dedicated to control of excessive I/I and sewer system maintenance. This webpage ([www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org)> Business with Us> I/I Control Programs) will be updated going forward as we receive feedback on it.

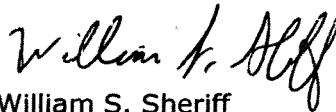
The following tabulation briefly describes current organization of the webpage.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Contents</u>
ATP Meetings	Meeting minutes, sign-in sheets, presentations, handouts, references, etc.
O&M Manual	Copy of an MWRD manual (1989) for sewer system (separate/combined) O&M
Links to I/I Resources	Regulations, private sector issues, funding, rehabilitation technology, initiatives by other agencies, research reports, etc.
Annual Summary Report Form	A fillable, pdf form for submitting the required Annual Summary Reports
MWRD Annual Reports	Copies of last ten years' annual reports that MWRD is required to submit to the Illinois EPA per NPDES permit conditions

The ATP meets on the third Wednesday, every odd-numbered month. ATP meeting minutes and related handouts/information will be posted on the aforesaid webpage by the end of every even-numbered month, e.g., minutes of the forthcoming May 16, 2012 meeting will be posted by the end of June 2012. We ask that your agency remain abreast of the developments/discussions at the ATP meetings and visit the aforesaid webpage regularly. You are invited to forward questions, concerns and suggestions about a new I/I control program and about the webpage to an ATP member representing your region for discussions at ATP meetings. A list of the ATP members is provided on the webpage.

If you have any additional queries or comments, please feel free to contact Ms. Maureen Durkin, P.E., Supervising Civil Engineer at (312) 751-3250, or [maureen.durkin@mwrdd.org](mailto:maureen.durkin@mwrdd.org).

Very truly yours,



William S. Sheriff  
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MD:JM:ab

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