

OTTAWA COUNTY SANITARY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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August 3, 2016

Re: Inflow/Infiltration (I/I) Reduction Program – Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing

Dear Resident or Property Owner:

This letter is to notify you that the Ottawa County Sanitary Engineering Department (OCSED) is planning to start sanitary smoke testing in your community within the next two weeks. The objective of this testing is to remove I & I sources from the sanitary sewer system, keep wastewater treatment costs and sanitary sewer rates low, and protect the environment.

The Ottawa County Sanitary Engineering Department will be performing the smoke testing and all personnel will have proper identification and vehicles will be clearly marked. The smoke used for smoke testing is non-toxic, non-hazardous, and manufactured specifically for this purpose. It leaves no residual or stains, and has no effect on plants or animals. The smoke should not enter your building, but if it does, it will have a distinct odor and should only last a few minutes with proper ventilation.

The Port Clinton Fire Rescue Department and the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office will be made aware of the smoke testing project areas and schedule. Door hangers will be given to residents at least 24-48 hours prior to work in the specific area. **Please note, that all plumbing fixture drain traps must be filled with water prior to smoke testing. Please perform the following tasks to ensure smoke does not enter your home:**

- Make sure all drain traps and plumbing fixtures have water in them. Fill seldom used drains (such as floor drains, garage sinks, etc.) with water by running the faucet for 15 to 30 seconds or filling the drain with approximately 3 cups of water.
- Prepare drains as soon as you receive this smoke testing notice, this only needs to be done once before testing begins.
- You do not need to be home during the smoke testing field work.
- Smoke should not enter your home; however, if it does this could be an indication of a defect in your plumbing system. This defect could allow sewer gases to enter inside your home, which is a potential health hazard. Corrections of such defects on private property are the responsibility of the property owner, and a registered plumber should be consulted to ensure the proper corrections are made. If smoke does enter your home or building, please notify the field technicians who are conducting the test.

The information gathered during the smoke testing project will be used to create a prioritized plan to reduce I/I impacts to the sanitary sewer system. Sewer defects may exist on both public and private property and will need to be corrected in a timely manner. After the smoke testing is complete, notices will be sent to those property owners that may need to make corrections. Often times, it can be as simple as removing a connected roof downspout and letting it drain above ground, or replacing a broken or missing lateral cleanout cap in your yard. OCSED will assist homeowners in determining the best approach in disconnecting I/I sources and rerouting storm drainage. Reducing I/I will keep sanitary sewer rate charges low, while also protecting the environment.

We appreciate your patience and understanding and will make every effort to minimize the inconvenience or disruptions this project may have on you. If you have any further questions or concerns please call 419-734-5953 and ask for me or visit our website at <http://www.co.ottawa.oh.us/index.php/sanitary-engineer/>.

Sincerely,



Ryan D. Barth
SSES Coordinator