



The Paducah McCracken Joint Sewer Agency (JSA) has entered into a Consent Judgment with the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has received an Administrative Order from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

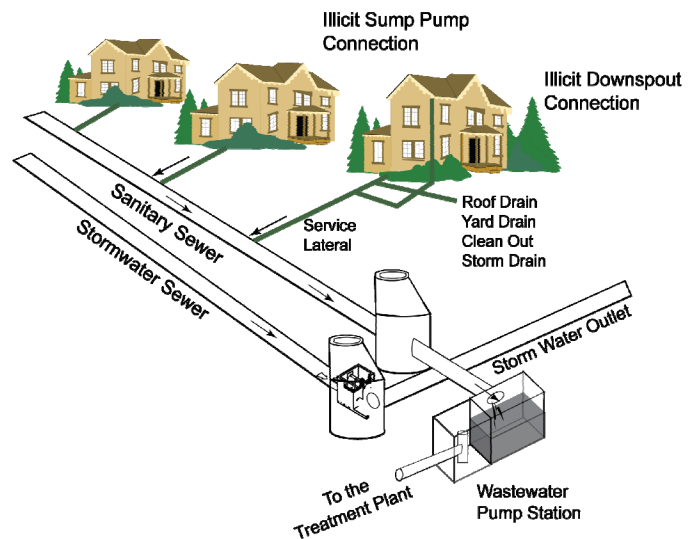
What this means:

- ◆ The Consent Judgment requires JSA to address sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and discharges from combined sewer overflow outfalls (CSO outfalls).
- ◆ It also requires that JSA develop, submit for approval, and implement plans for the continued improvement of the sewage collection and treatment system.
- ◆ JSA is one of seventeen communities in Kentucky with permitted CSO outfalls. Each of these communities, including Frankfort, Henderson, Louisville, the Northern Kentucky Sanitation District #1, and Owensboro, are under similar consent judgments.
- ◆ There are up to 100 additional communities in Kentucky that the state is considering additional action to address SSOs.

### What is a combined sewer system?



### What is a sanitary sewer system?



What is being done:

- ◆ Early steps for preparation of the improvement plans include water quality sampling, flow monitoring, and computer modeling within the system.
- ◆ As they are developed, these plans will evaluate improvements to eliminate, reduce, or minimize the impact of overflows.
- ◆ JSA is also evaluating the operation and maintenance of their system to ensure that appropriate steps are being taken to minimize impacts of the overflows while the improvements are being evaluated, designed, and constructed.
- ◆ JSA also continues to perform maintenance and rehabilitation throughout its collection system. Since July 2005, JSA has spent over \$7 million on these activities.

### Primer on Sewer Overflows

JSA is responsible for the operation and maintenance of Paducah and McCracken County's wastewater collection and treatment system. The collection system contains both combined sewers and separate sanitary sewers.

The combined sewer system is designed to collect stormwater runoff, domestic sewage, and commercial / industrial wastewater in the same pipe and conveys these flows to the treatment plant. During storm events, flow

in the combined sewer may exceed the pipe's capacity. When this occurs, combined sewers are designed to overflow, resulting in the discharge of untreated wastewater into the area's streams and rivers. These discharges are referred to as combined sewer overflows (CSOs). Combined sewer systems are found in many older cities in the U.S. and were considered state of the art technology during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The separate sanitary sewer system is designed to carry only wastewater to the treatment plant. If the capacity of the sewer is exceeded, sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) may result. These SSOs may occur because of pipe failures, blockages, or other maintenance issues; however, they can also be the result of illegal stormwater connections or defects in the sewers which may allow stormwater to enter the sewer and exceed the pipe's capacity.

### **What if there is a problem with the sewer?**

If you experience a sewer back-up or if all of the wastewater drains in your residence or business are stopped up, please call JSA at (270) 575-0056. JSA will check the sewer main to ensure it is operating properly. If the problem is in JSA's sewer main, the stoppage will be cleared, the sewer repaired, or the problem otherwise addressed by JSA.

If the problem is not located within the JSA system, the property owner will be advised to contact a plumber or sewer contractor. JSA personnel will not perform any work on private property except within a public easement.

### **What are the property owner's responsibilities?**

The property owner is responsible for all maintenance, operation, and cleaning of the sewer service lateral from the building to the point of connection with the JSA main sewer. Repairs and reconstruction of the sewer service lateral from the building to a public roadway shall be the responsibility of the owner.

If the property owner's contractor is unable to clear a stoppage due to a structural defect in the sewer service lateral located within JSA's right-of-way, JSA should be notified while the contractor is still on location. The portion of the service lateral on JSA's right-of-way will be repaired by JSA. If there is no cleanout to grade, the property owner must install one on the service lateral at the easement or right-of-way.

### **How much does it cost to have JSA check on a sewer problem?**

JSA does not charge for evaluating the location of the problem or correcting a stoppage or defect located within JSA's right-of-way. This work is financed through sewer user fees. JSA, however, will not assume the cost of the plumber or contractor's call, regardless of the location of the stoppage.

### **What can I do to minimize overflows?**

- ◆ Keep fats, oils, and greases out of the sewer system. These items should never be poured down the drain. As grease cools, it will solidify and accumulate in the sewer system, resulting in clogs or stoppages. Fats, oils, and grease should be collected in a container, such as an empty coffee can, and disposed of with your garbage.
- ◆ Do not use your toilet or drains as a wastebasket. Never dispose of items like paper towels, diapers, or personal hygiene products in the sewer.
- ◆ Keep storm drains free of yard clippings, leaves, litter, and other debris.
- ◆ Direct your downspouts, driveway drains, groundwater or basement sumps, or other stormwater connections to your lawn and away from the sewers.
- ◆ Minimize water use activities (clothes washing, dishwashing, bathing, etc.) during rain or storm events.



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