

CHAPTER 44 – SANITARY SEWERS

[History: Adopted 12-04-01 by the Council of the Northumberland Borough as Ord. No. 2001-11.]

ARTICLE I – DEFINITIONS

44.1.00 Definitions.

Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the meaning of the terms used in this Chapter shall be as follows:

Authority - The Northumberland Sewer Authority.

Authority's Sewer System - The system of Sanitary Sewer pipes, lines, mains, facilities and appurtenances of every kind and nature, as of any particular time, operated or caused to be operated by the Authority for the collection, transportation, pumping, treating and/or disposing of Sanitary Sewage and acceptable Industrial Wastes in the rendering of sewage service in the Borough, extending to the clean-out if one has been installed, and if not then to the curb line, or if there be no curb line, to the property line of Improved Properties.

Building - A structure built, erected, framed of component structural parts, designed for the housing, shelter, enclosure, or support of persons, animals, or property of any kind.

Building Sewer - That portion of the Sewer System extending from the end of the inside plumbing system of a Building to the Lateral.

Borough - The Borough of Northumberland

Holding Tank - A watertight receptacle which receives and retains Sewage and is designed and constructed to facilitate ultimate disposal of the Sewage at another site, including but not limited to the following:

- A. **Chemical Toilet** - A toilet using chemicals that discharge to a holding tank.
- B. **Retention Tank** - A holding tank where Sewage is conveyed to it by a water-carrying system.
- C. **Vault Pit Privy** - A holding tank designed to receive Sewage where water under pressure is not available.

Improved Property - Any property upon which there is erected any Building(s) intended for continuous or periodic habitation, occupancy or use by human beings and animals from which Sanitary Sewage or industrial waste is, shall be, or may be discharged, which Building(s) consist(s) of or contain(s) a Dwelling Unit, Commercial Establishment, Institutional Establishment or Industrial Establishment, or other such place in which such Sewage and wastes are produced.

Lateral - That portion of the Sewer System extending from the clean-out if one has been installed, and if not then the curb line, or if there be no curb line, from the property line to the Authority's Sewer System.

May - The term "may" is permissive.

Owner - Any Person vested with ownership, legal or equitable, sole or partial, of any Improved Property located in the Borough.

Person - Any individual, firm, company, association, society, corporation, or any other group or entity.

Sanitary Sewage - Domestic waste, normal wastewater, and substances that contain any of the waste products or excrementitious or other discharge from the bodies of human beings or animals, that are carried from dwellings, Buildings, Commercial and Institutional and Industrial Establishments and any other such places in which such wastes and substances are produced, together with the water carrying the same.

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Sanitary Sewer - A sewer which is part of the Sewer System and which carries Sanitary Sewage and acceptable Industrial Wastes and into which storm, surface and ground waters are not permitted or intentionally admitted.

Sewage - Any substance that contains any of the waste products or excrementitious or other discharge from the bodies of human beings or animals and any noxious or deleterious substance being harmful or inimical to the public health, or to animal or aquatic life, or to the use of water for domestic water supply or for recreation. Any combination of water-carried wastes from Buildings, Commercial Establishments, Institutional Establishments, Industrial Establishments or other places in which wastes are produced, together with such ground, surface, storm or other water as may be present.

Sewer System - The entire system of Sanitary Sewer pipes, lines, mains, facilities and appurtenances of every kind and nature, as of any particular time, operated or caused to be operated by the Authority for the collection, transportation, pumping, treating and/or disposing of Sanitary Sewage and acceptable Industrial Wastes in the rendering of sewage service in the Borough, including the Authority's Sewer System and all pipes, lines, facilities and appurtenances extending from the Authority's Sewer System to the end of the inside plumbing system of any Building on an Improved Property, whether or not interconnected.

Shall - The term "shall" is mandatory.

Tapping Fee - A fee charged to the Owner of Improved Property to connect to the Sewer System, authorized by the Municipality Authorities Act, charged and payable at the time the application for a sewer tap-on permit is submitted to the Authority, and based upon some or all of the following components: capacity, distribution or collection, special purpose, reimbursement.

User Charge - An amount charged to the Owner of Improved Property for each Dwelling Unit or each nonresidential unit in a Building containing multiple units, charged and payable at the time the application for a sewer tap-on permit is submitted to the Authority or at the time that the Building is subdivided to produce additional units.

ARTICLE II – CONNECTION TO SEWER SYSTEM

44.2.01 Connection Required; Notice To Connect; Authority May Connect.

The Owner of any Improved Property in the Borough abutting on any street, alley or right-of-way in which any Sanitary Sewer of the Authority's Sewer System is located, and the Owner of any Improved Property whose Building is located within one hundred fifty (150) feet of any Sanitary Sewer of the Authority's Sewer System shall, at said Owner's expense, install suitable sanitary sewer facilities and connect such facilities directly with such Sanitary Sewer in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and the Rules and Regulations of the Authority within sixty (60) days after the date of official notice to do so, given in the manner provided by law. In the event any such Owner shall refuse or neglect to so connect within said sixty (60) day period, said Owner shall be deemed to be in violation of this Chapter and the Rules and Regulations of the Authority, and the Authority or its agents may enter upon such property and construct such connection. The Authority shall send an itemized bill of the costs of the construction to the Owner, which bill shall be payable within thirty (30) days. If the Owner does not pay said bill within the thirty (30) day period, the Authority shall file a municipal lien against the Improved Property and shall collect said costs in any manner allowed by law. Should the Authority determine that the connection of a Building to a Sanitary Sewer of the Authority's Sewer System would result in an overload of the Authority's sewage treatment facilities, the Authority may excuse the Owner of the Improved Property from making such connection until the overload problem is corrected.

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44.2.02 Separate Connection Required.

Each Improved Property and each Building, whether constructed as a detached unit or as one of a pair or a row, shall be connected separately and independently with the Authority's Sewer System through a Building Sewer unless special permission shall have been granted in writing by the Authority upon a finding of special circumstances and for good sanitary reasons or other good causes.

44.2.03 Permit Required for Connection, Disconnection, Repair/Replacement.

No Improved Property shall be connected to or disconnected from the Authority's Sewer System and no Sanitary Sewer, Building Sewer, Lateral or any other sewer pipe, main or facility shall be repaired or replaced until the Owner of said property shall have first obtained a permit from the Authority. The application for such permit shall be submitted to the Authority in the form prescribed by the Authority and shall be accompanied by the appropriate Tapping Fee, User Charge and permit fees and a description and diagram of the site, the character and use of each building located or to be located thereon, and the Building Sewer, Lateral and any other sewer pipe, main or facility.

44.2.04 Compliance with Rules and Regulations.

All connections to and disconnections from the Authority's Sewer System and all repairs or replacements of any Sanitary Sewer, Building Sewer, Lateral or any other sewer pipe, main or facility shall be made in compliance with this Chapter and the Rules and Regulations, resolutions and specifications of the Authority.

ARTICLE III – CERTAIN DISCHARGES INTO SEWER SYSTEM PROHIBITED.

44.3.01 Discharges From Rain Spouts, Cellar Drains, Etc., Into Sewer System Prohibited. (3-1)

No Person shall discharge, cause to be discharged, or allow to be discharged into the Sewer System any storm water, surface water, groundwater, roof runoff or sub-surface drainage, building foundation drainage, cellar or basement drainage from rain spouts, drain tile systems, yard drains, foundation drains, cellar drains or sump pumps or other similar facilities.

44.3.02 Other Prohibited Discharges into Sewer System. (3-2)

No Person shall discharge, cause to be discharged, or allow to be discharged into the Sewer System anything that is prohibited by state and federal clean streams laws, or any of the following: Any ashes, cinders, sand, mud, straw, shavings, metal, glass, rags, feathers, fur, plastics, wood, paunch manure, butchers offal, hair or any other solids or viscous substances capable of causing obstruction to the flow in Sanitary Sewers or the interference with the proper operation of the Sewer System; Any inert insoluble solids such as asphalt, clay, slag and mill scale, or sludges and slurries; Any waters or waste containing any quantities of formaldehyde, carbide waste and phenols; Any waters or waste containing radioactive isotopes; Any noxious or malodorous substances not mentioned in the foregoing list that will pass through the Sewage System and exceed the state, federal and/or interstate requirements for the receiving stream.

ARTICLE IV – HOLDING TANKS

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44.4.01 Holding Tank Permit Required. (4-1)

No collection and disposal of Sewage from any Improved Property utilizing a Holding Tank shall be done unless and until a permit is granted by the Authority, and then only under the direction and control of the Authority.

44.4.02 Permit Requirements. (4-2)

The Owner of an Improved Property intending to utilize a Holding Tank shall do the following:

A. Written Contract. (4-2.1)

Said Owner shall present to the Authority a written contract for the pumping of Sewage from the Holding Tank and the hauling of said Sewage to a disposal site approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). Said contract shall be between the Owner and a pumper-hauler approved by PADEP.

B. PADEP Approval. (4-2.2)

Said Owner shall present to the Authority a writing from a PADEP approved disposal site granting the pumper-hauler permission to dispose of the Sewage from the Owner's Holding Tank at said disposal site.

C. Notice: Inspection. (4-2.3)

Said Owner shall inform the Authority at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the date and time for the installation of the Holding Tank so that an employee or agent of the Authority may inspect its installation.

D. Warning Devices. (4-2.4.)

Said Owner shall, at the time of the installation of the Holding Tank, install on said Tank visible and audible devices that will give warning when the contents have reached seventy-five percent (75%) of the capacity of said Tank.

44.4.03 Maintenance. (4-3)

The Owner of an Improved Property permitted to utilize a Holding Tank shall maintain the Holding Tank as follows:

A. Maintain Per All Laws, Rules And Regulations. (4-3.1)

The Holding Tank shall be maintained in conformance with all ordinances, resolutions, rules and regulations of the Borough, all applicable state and federal laws, and all applicable Rules and Regulations, resolutions and specifications of the Authority, laws and rules and regulations of state and federal governments, and any departments, agencies or other arms thereof.

B. Maintain So Contents Do Not Escape. (4-3.2)

The Holding Tank shall be maintained so that the contents thereof do not escape, seep or overflow.

C. Contents To Be Pumped Out To Prevent Overflow. (4-3.3)

The Holding Tank shall be maintained by having the contents thereof pumped out as frequently as is necessary to prevent the contents from escaping, seeping or overflowing.

D. Only Approved Persons May Pump, Haul And Dispose Of Contents. (4-3.4)

The Holding Tank shall be maintained by permitting only those Persons approved by and acting under the supervision and direction of the Authority to pump, haul and dispose of the contents of the Tank.

E. Provide Written Evidence To Authority Of Pumping And Disposal. (4-3.5)

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The Holding Tank shall be maintained by presenting to the Authority within five days after the contents of the Holding Tank have been pumped and disposed of, the receipts and other suitable evidence in writing from the pumper-hauler and the disposal site indicating the quantity of Sewage pumped and disposed of and the date or dates.

44.4.04 Holding Tank without Permit A Nuisance. (4-4)

The utilization of a Holding Tank in violation of any of the provisions of these Rules and Regulations shall constitute a nuisance and the Authority may abate the same in any manner allowed by law.

ARTICLE V – PRIVYS, CESSPOOLS PROHIBITED.

44.5.01 Privys, Cesspools Prohibited

It is hereby declared to be unlawful and a nuisance for any Person, whether principal or agent, to construct, maintain or use, or being the Owner of the property to permit to be used or remain in use, any privy, privy vault, cesspool, septic tank or similar receptacle intended or used for the disposal of Sewage and human excrement on any property in the Borough abutting on any street, alley or right-of-way in which any Sanitary Sewer of the Authority's Sewer System is located, or on any property in the Borough where the Building located thereon is within one hundred fifty (150) feet of any Sanitary Sewer of the Authority's Sewer System. The property Owner shall abate said nuisance upon notice from the Authority to do so. If the Owner fails to abate said nuisance within forty-five days after notice from the Authority, the Authority shall abate the same; connect the property to the Sewer System; and collect from the Owner the cost thereof, including the established tapping fees and user charges.

ARTICLE VI – AUTHORITY

44.6.01 Authority to Act as Agent of Borough.

The Authority is hereby authorized to act as the agent of the Borough in the enforcement of this Chapter and to pursue all remedies and penalties available under this Chapter and all state and federal laws

ARTICLE VII – VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

44.7.01 Fines and Penalties Per Resolution. (7-1)

The fines and penalties for violation of this Chapter shall be established by a resolution adopted by Borough Council.

44.7.02 Violators Liable for Expense, Loss or Damage Suffered by the Borough and the Authority. (7-2)

Any Person who violates any of the provisions of this Chapter and the Rules and Regulations, resolutions and specifications of the Authority, in addition to being liable for a fine and penalty, shall be liable to the Borough and the Authority for any expense, loss or damage suffered by the Borough and the Authority by reason of such violation.

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