

INFLOW AND INFILTRATION POLICY

This policy is made effective January 1, 2013 for all properties including those to be listed or sold (closed) after that date except as noted in this policy. (Amended June 7, 2016)

The city recognizes the importance in removal of Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) from the sanitary sewer system. I & I not only causes sewage backups in basements, but also results in a substantial increase in energy needs and rapidly advances the need for repair and maintenance due to increased burden on the system. In addition, there is a reduction in sewer capacity, which shortens the life of the current treatment facility. All of which result in increased cost and financial burden on citizens and businesses of Creston.

I & I is the invasion of water into the system from broken, cracked or mis-aligned mains, leaking manholes or manholes that have water flow over their covers. Other sources of I & I include private (resident and business) services that are cracked or broken and storm water connections from sump pits and roof drains, or other sources into sanitary sewers which are illegal in accordance with Ordinance No. 95.12.

The Mayor and Council therefore adopt the following to abate problems associated with I & I:

1. The City shall perform a study to locate I & I using sewer department staff and other resources. It shall be conducted on an area-by-area basis with anticipated citywide completion in December 30, 2022. **Efforts should be made to study one area and do as much repair and disconnection as possible before moving to another area.**

The 10 year target for area inspections is: Years 1 & 2 – Ward 5, Years 3 & 4 – Ward 2, Years 5 & 6 – Ward 3, Years 7 & 8 – Ward 4, Years 9 & 10 – Ward 1.

2. Public sewers and manholes with I & I shall be repaired using sewer revenue including fees and grants, etc., as designated by the city council.

ACCESS TO PRIVATE SERVICE ref. Ord. 95.43 Right of Entry

Private sources of I & I are the responsibility of property owners and shall be repaired or removed in the following manner:

Should the property owner deny access to the property for I & I Testing and/or Inspection, the City of Creston will consider the property non-compliant with The City of Creston I & I Program. A letter notifying the owner of non-compliance will be sent and the property owner will be given 60 days to respond or a \$30.00 per monthly fee shall be applied to the utility bill until inspection or testing can confirm compliance. If the owner has failed to allow access after a 120-day period of time, the monthly fee will increase to \$50.00 until inspection or testing can confirm compliance. After one year (365 calendar days) from notifying the owner of non-compliance, the per month fee will increase to \$100 per month. Fees will be billed via regular US Mail to the recorded owner of the property. Fees not paid will be assessed by the City for such costs, which will be collected in the same manner as

general property taxes. In cases where fees have not been paid for at the end of this one-year period, the City may shut down sewer service to the property until all fees are paid and the connection is brought into compliance with Creston Code and Policy.

CONNECTION OR LEAKING SERVICE TO SEWER

Upon written notification (first class mail) of I & I flowing into the sanitary sewer from an illegal connection including sump pumps, the property owner shall have a period of **one year to abate the problem**. Those that perform the proper repairs, either by the owner or a contractor, within one year of notification or less shall be **eligible for 25% reimbursement (not to exceed \$500) for the disconnection costs**. **Reimbursement eligibility is effective upon passage of this policy by the City Council. For those property owners who opt not to disconnect illegal connections from the sanitary sewer after the one-year period, a \$50 per month fee shall be applied until the disconnection has been performed, but not to exceed six (6) months. By the end of the six (6) months, the owner shall have completed the disconnection. In cases where fees have not been paid for at the end of this six-month period, the City may shut down sewer service to the property.**

Inspection by city staff both prior to and after repairs shall be necessary for a reimbursement. In addition, a billing statement for services performed shall accompany the request for reimbursement. For those owners opting to do the work without the assistance of a commercial contractor, the City shall reimburse 50% of the material costs only. The reimbursement shall not exceed \$500. This policy is effective upon passage by the City Council. All sanitary sewer work performed within the City of Creston shall conform to the Uniform Plumbing Code, most current edition and Code of Ordinance, Chapter 95. All private building sewer improvements not done by the property owner are required to be completed by a licensed contractor.

Policy Note: *This shall supersede Resolution #51, dated November 19, 1996, and signed by Mayor Larry Wynn.*

METHODS OF PAYMENT TO THE CONTRACTOR

1. The homeowner pays the contractor directly.
2. The homeowner requests a Special City Assessment using a form provided by the City of Creston and included with this policy and titled *I & I Special Assessment Form*.
3. Those property owners who can show undue hardship resulting from these repairs by meeting financial criteria established by the City Council as determined by a SICOG interview, may qualify to have the City pay for repairs of up to \$5,000 with a forgivable loan. Repairs costing more than \$5,000 may be paid for using one or two of the "Methods of Payment to the Contractor". This program is described in the "*I & I Hardship Assistance Program*".

I&I TESTING PROCEDURE

1. When city staff tests a building for a possible cross connection for sources of Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) the following shall apply:

The testing will be conducted using city equipment consisting of dye water, pumps, a hollow probe used to inject dye water next the building foundation and sewer main televising equipment. The test shall be conducted in the following manner:

The dye water shall be injected at the foundation wall, preferably on a corner, at a point no closer than 15' from where the building sewer line enters the house, if possible. If the point where the building sewer line enters the building is not known, best judgement should be used. The test result shall be visually inspected either at a clean out in the sanitary sewer line, the downstream manhole or using televising equipment placed in the sewer main at the point that the sanitary sewer line ties to the sewer main. If dye water appears at any of these locations the building is considered to be not in compliance with the I&I ordinance or policy and repairs must be made.

PROPERTIES TESTING POSITIVE WITH THE DYE TEST BUT THEN FINDING NO FOOTING TILE CONNECTION AT THE POINT WHERE THE SANITARY SEWER ENTERS THE BUILDING

1. Should a building test positive for a cross connection, that is dye water showing up in the sanitary sewer when the city staff is injecting dye next to the foundation, but no cross connection is found between the footing tile line and the sanitary sewer at the point where the building sewer enters the building the following shall apply:

The contractor shall remove a section of the sanitary sewer line and then shall cause the sanitary line to be televised, looking for a cross connection elsewhere. The televising equipment shall be supplied by the contractor. The city's inspector must be present during the televising of this line or a video copy shall be made and given to the city inspector for viewing.

If after the televising inspection is complete and still no cross connection is found the City of Creston shall not be held responsible for any costs associated with the digging, replacement costs or the televising of the sewer line. The building will be considered a permitted non-compliant connection.

A cleanout or backwater valve shall be placed in the sanitary sewer line for future use.