

How did the borough determine that I have ground water infiltration?

A representative from Borough's engineering firm performed a visual inspection of your viewport during a wet weather event (a wet weather event can be generally described as: a period of time when the Borough received a sufficient amount of rain in a given time-frame, coupled with sufficient ground saturation). When the inspection occurred at your property, it was determined that an excessive amount of clear water was running through your sewer lateral and, therefore, indicative of ground water infiltration into your sewer system (generally called inflow and infiltration "I&I"). Because your service lateral was replaced during the sewer project, the only source of I&I into your property's sewer system is ground water entering either via pipes underneath your basement slab or via an illegal connection (sump pump, rain spouts, etc.) The representatives from the Borough's engineering firm have plenty of training and experience to identify I&I from regular sewage flows from a residence.

Will every property be tested for round water infiltration?

The Borough has performed or will perform similar wet weather testing of every property in the Borough. Currently, the Borough has completed this testing for 100% of the properties that were in Phase 1 of the project and has completed 80% of Phase 2 properties. The properties that have not been tested have been the result of dry weather and not having the proper conditions to perform the wet weather testing. Every property will be tested.

Is there an allowable amount of ground water infiltration?

Technically speaking, Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") does not permit any allowable amount of I&I into a sewer system as they are to be a "closed" system. DEP only wants sewer treatment plants to be treating sewage and not storm water, ground water, etc. With that said, DEP recognizes that not every system is perfectly "closed," and has mandated that the Borough's system (and the surrounding communities) meets a flow rate of 625GPD/EDU on a peak hourly basis. Failure to meet this flow rate will result in DEP issuing fines and penalties against the Borough beginning possibly in January 2022/2023.

How do you know the excess ground water is solely form my property?

Other residences in the Borough do not impact whether you have I&I in your property's sewer system. Your sewer system is connected to other homes only via the connection at the public line (located at the street or in some cases the backyard) Regardless, your

sewer lines flow in only one direction, from your home to the public lines. The excessive flow observed is coming from your home towards the public line. No other resident sewage is flowing through your lateral

Is there an ordinance requiring that I fix my sewage pipes?

The Borough previously enacted Ordinance 472 (09/15/2008) which required residents to maintain their sewer pipes in good condition and granted the Borough the authority to require property owners to repair their sewage pipes should it be determined that leaking, deterioration or infiltration was occurring. Ordinance 472 was recently updated and amended by Ordinance 531 (03/15/2021) to better outline compliance requirements of property owners who have I&I in their sewer pipes.

Why didn't the Borough use monitoring devices to determine if I have excess ground water?

The Borough does have mechanical monitors installed at various locations of their "public" sewer lines to monitor and/or quantify sewer flow from the Borough's system. These monitors are expensive to install and maintain and are meant to calculate flows for the entire system; i.e. providing data to DEP that the Borough has met its flow rate requirements. This method is not practical for determining individual flows from every property in the Borough. The set weather method employed by the Borough is sufficiently accurate and the most economical way to determine I&I in a property's system (there is not a need for expensive equipment for trained personnel to observe and identify when I&I is flowing from a private residence's sewage system).

Why isn't the Borough requiring all properties fix their sewage pipes at this time?

The Borough has always approached the sewer mandates and its sewer project in an independent manner; problem solving through the issues to minimize the economic impact on its residents. The Borough believes that it has handled the impact of the sewer mandates on its residents better than any other municipality:

Borough's project was completed a head of schedule and approximately 25% below the initial budget;

Borough replaced all service sewer laterals for Borough residents. This was a cost savings of \$4,000 to \$10,000 for residents and did not require residents to hire and oversee their own project; and

Borough did not immediately mandate that all residents replace under-slab pipes when it was not known whether such action would be required.

Most municipalities process of meeting their obligations was to require residents to pressure test their sewer laterals and their under-slab sewer lines (under-slab replacement **was not** required by DEP) and fix same upon failing said test. This decision by these municipalities was essentially a mandate to their resident's that they replace their laterals and under-slab lines because the municipalities know that the homes would not pass such testing due to the type of pipe installed (terra cotta), construction methods used (joints) and the age of pipe installed (40+ years). Thus, municipalities using this process put the financial burden and the burden of completing the actual work on its residents in order to solve their I&I issues and meet DEP mandates.

Southmont knew that following this same blanket "pressure test" approach would result in 99% of residents footing the cost and headaches to replace both their sewer lateral and under-slab piping. Because the Borough knew this result, it chose to take a two-step approach as to not overly burden its residents: (1) it included in its public sewer project the cost of replacement of every service lateral in the Borough in order to alleviate the financial obligation and headache of sewer later replacement for its residents; and (2) it chose to wait and see if the completed sewer and service lateral replacement work fixed the excessive sewer flows and the Borough was able to meet its flow rate requirements.

Southmont chose not to immediately mandate under-slab pipe replacement because the work is the costliest, the most onerous, and it was not known if it would be necessary. Many homeowners have finished basements and the work required to replace under—slab piping in this environment is quite frustrating. If the prior sewer work performed showed minimal I&I in its system, no additional work would be required. Why would the Borough mandate homeowners perform such an arduous task at their expense when it may not be required? The simple answer is that it should not and did not.

Why did I receive and inflow & infiltration excess ground water notice?

Despite the work performed to date, the Borough's flow data shows that the Borough is still experiencing spikes in sewage flow during rain events. This spike in the data tells the Borough's engineer that the Borough is still experiencing I&I into its sewer system. Because the Borough did not mandate under-slab replacement, this is where the I&I is coming into the Borough's system and the next problem that needs fixed. With this said, the Borough believed that it should continue to reject a "blanket-wide" approach and mandate that all residents in the Borough tear up their basements and replace their under-slab replacement. Why mandate a resident to perform a costly/arduous task to

fix a problem they don't have? The Borough has decided that those with the problems, should fix their problems. Please know that the Borough is not giving other residents a "pass," the other residents simply passed their wet weather inspections.

What is the Borough's Plan?

The Borough's plan at this juncture, is to require all those residents who have failed a visual wet weather inspection to repair their under-slab piping within and eight (8) month time-period. The Borough believes that when all the residents who received Notice of failure repair their under-slab piping, the Borough will be in compliance with DEP's requirements.