

# BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT

148 Wonder Street • Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15905-2699  
814-255-3104  
Fax: 814-255-4150

[www.southmontborough.com](http://www.southmontborough.com)

Email: [smtboro@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:smtboro@atlanticbbn.net)

## NOTICE OF GROUND WATER INFILTRATION

After completion of Southmont Borough's sewer projects, the Borough's engineer has determined that ground water is still infiltrating into the sanitary sewer system based upon flow monitor data and inspection of laterals during wet weather events. This is resulting in the Borough not meeting DEP's flow requirements. The most likely source of this infiltration is from ground water entering into older sewer lines located underneath basement slabs. To determine which homes are contributing ground water into their under-slab sewer lines, the Borough inspected every residential lateral during the recent wet weather.

Unfortunately, your home was identified as contributing ground water into the sanitary sewer system. Accordingly, the Borough is requiring you to take action to remove the ground water from your system. This can be achieved by you consulting with a plumber to determine what course of action to remove the ground water that best serves your situation and home. There is no "one" correct way to achieve this and the Borough is only concerned that you remove the ground water entering into your sewer system. The only caveat is that upon completion of the work, your sewer system will be required to pass a test to confirm that your system is no longer contributing ground water. The Borough is requiring you to perform the corrective work no later than eight (8) months from the date of this letter. Upon completing the work, the Borough will require you to contact the Borough so it can verify that the work performed has removed ground water from your sewer system.

A possible source of your ground water infiltration is sump pumps connected to the home's sanitary sewer system. If you have a sump pump, you need to determine if it is connected to your sanitary sewer system. If your sump pump is connected to your sewer system, you should consult with a plumber in order to: (a) disconnect the pump from the system so ground water is not being deposited into your sanitary sewer system; and (b) notify the Borough after the work is completed so that it can re-check your sewer line for infiltration.

The Borough understands that requiring this additional remediation is a burden. Please understand that Southmont exhausted all of its options in order to meet DEP's requirements prior to mandating home owners perform this remediation work on their home. The Borough exhausted its options by: (a) replacing all public sewer lines and connections; (b) replacing and inspecting every residential sewer lateral from foundation to public connection; and (c) inspecting homes during sale transfers for illegal sump pump connections. With these steps completed, requiring home owners to remove ground water from their systems is the next step.

There is some good news. The State of Pennsylvania now provides attractive low-interest loans through local community banks to those individuals who meet certain qualifications. The Borough believes that 1<sup>st</sup> Summit Bank is one local bank, but you may check with your local bank to determine if it also participates in this loan program.

Very truly yours,

Amanda Layton, Executive Secretary

AL/mac