

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT

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NOTICE OF PLANNED PENALTIES REGARDING WATER INFILTRATION

You are receiving this Notice of Planned Penalties because you received a prior Notice of Ground Water Infiltration that your property is contributing ground water into the sanitary sewer system. The prior Notice of Ground Water Infiltration requested that you take corrective action to remove the ground water no later than eight (8) months from the date of that Notice. Our records indicate that the date of your Notice was March 26, 2021.

The purpose of this Notice is to advise residents that the Borough will be passing Ordinances to enforce compliance with the deadline as follows:

- If the ground water issue at your property has not been resolved by the eight (8) month deadline, the Borough will add a monthly “non-compliance” surcharge to your monthly sanitary sewer bill. The surcharge will be \$50.00 per month. The surcharge will remain in place until such time that the ground water is removed from the sanitary sewer system.
- If a property remains “non-compliance” four (4) months after the initiation of the surcharge, the Borough will notify the Greater Johnstown Water Authority (“GJWA”) to turn off your water service.

If you have hired a contractor to perform repair work at your home but the work has not commenced or has been delayed, the Borough recommends contacting the Borough to provide it with proof that you have made arrangements and are simply waiting on the contractor. This may postpone enforcement of the referenced penalties against you.

While these planned penalties may seem harsh, the Borough has continually stressed the importance of residents taking action to rectify the problem of ground water infiltration. The Borough has exhausted all of its options in order to meet DEP’s requirements prior to mandating home owners perform remediation work. These “planned enforcement” steps are the next logical approach to remove ground water from property owner’s systems.

The Borough believed it was appropriate to provide this Notice of Planned Penalties in advanced of the eight-month deadline so residents are not surprised about the consequences of non-compliance. To avoid being subject to the penalties for non-compliance, make the necessary arrangements with a contractor to remove the ground water from your sanitary sewer system and advise the Borough accordingly.

Very truly yours,

Amanda Layton, Executive Secretary
On behalf of Southmont Borough Council