BUILDING SEWER REPAIRS IN THE CITY RIGHT OF WAY

Adopted by Council June 25, 2007

A. APPLICABILITY - This policy applies to all portions of residential building sewer(s) within the City Right of Way.

B. PURPOSE - The purpose of this policy is to allow a mechanism for the property owner to retain ownership of the house connection, but would allow, by agreement, the City to perform repairs and maintenance to the building sewers (house connections) within the City Right of Way (ROW).

C. POLICY REGARDING CITY MAINTENANCE OF HOUSE CONNECTIONS - Beginning on July 18, 2007, the City of Saco will assume responsibility for the repair and replacement of building sewers (house connections) within City ROW.

D. INITIAL DETERMINATION OF FAILURE LOCATION - It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to make the initial investigation to determine whether the problem or collapse exists on the property owner’s property or in the City ROW. The owner will contact the City Department of Public Works (DPW) during the investigation and review their findings with appropriate DPW personnel. The City will not be responsible for costs associated with the initial investigation including but not limited to cleaning, rodding, excavating, and televising.

(1) At the conclusion of the initial investigation, the DPW shall issue an Initial Findings Report listing the suspected cause and location of failure, responsible party for repairs (City or property owner), and a preliminary schedule for repairs in the ROW.

E. FAILURE WITHIN THE PROPERTY OWNER’S PROPERTY LIMITS - If it is determined that the failure is on the property owner’s property, the owner will be responsible for cleaning, excavation or repairs.

F. FAILURE WITHIN THE CITY RIGHT OF WAY - If the failure appears to reside within the City ROW, the City shall schedule repairs within a reasonable time.

(1) The property owner will be required to sign an agreement provided by the City allowing the City to make repairs, replace all or a portion of the line within the ROW and, to perform cleaning and other maintenance to their sewer connection within the ROW.
G. ASSESSMENT OF COST ASSOCIATED WITH THE REPAIRS - Property owner’s Responsibility - During or at the conclusion of the repairs or maintenance, if the Public Works Director or their designee concludes that the failure was a result of improper or negligent use of the sewer system or failure due to improper maintenance of the line, the DPW will invoice the property owner for all labor, materials, and equipment use associated with the repairs.

H. NEGLIGENT OR IMPROPER USE OF SEWER SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO –

(1) Blockage due to use of non-biodegradable material such as clothing, handiwipes, toys, balls, kitty litter, etc.
(2) Blockage to wood, brick, concrete or construction material in the sewer
(3) Roots from trees owned by the property owner
(4) Soils caused by house connection failure within the owner’s property
(5) Materials, chemicals, or liquid properties prohibited by ordinance

I. CITY RESPONSIBILITY - Upon further investigation, if the owner determines that the failure resides within the ROW, the owner shall notify the DPW immediately for an inspection. If the Public Works Director or their designee concurs that the failure resides within the ROW, the City will make a determination to have the on-site contractor finish the repair or will schedule repairs by the DPW personnel or contractor hired by the City. The City shall assume reasonable costs incurred by the property owner.