



City of Coos Bay
Public Works and Development Department
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February 6, 2013

- LETTER TO INDUSTRY -

Subject: City of Coos Bay Municipal Code Guidelines for Illegal and Legal Discharges and Private Lateral Regulations

Dear Local Plumbers,

The City of Coos Bay's Engineering Department has put together this letter for your use to understand certain aspects of the Municipal Code. Performing various work in different Cities and jurisdictions you face many different situations that may not be allowed in the City of Coos Bay.

The following are excerpts from Coos Bay Municipal Code. However, it may be in your best interest to read the code in its entirety which is located at the City's website:
<http://www.coosbay.org/>

1. **13.15.020 General discharge prohibitions.** Use of Restricted Sewers. It is unlawful to discharge, permit the discharge, or permit or allow a connection which will result in the discharge of sanitary sewage, wastewater, or industrial waste into the City's storm sewer system. It is unlawful for any person to discharge or permit the discharge or cause or permit a connection which will result in the discharge of stormwater, roof drains and down spouts, ground water, street drainage, subsurface drainage, or yard drainage or uncontaminated water used for refrigerating or cooling purposes or steam condensation into the City's wastewater treatment system.

2. **13.15.160 New connections to wastewater system.**
 - (1) Permits. Any person who intends to connect a private lateral, service lateral or new collection to an existing collection line shall apply to the director for connection permit. The application shall include plans, specifications, or other information deemed necessary by the director to determine compliance with all ordinances, regulations, or rules relating to the wastewater system.
 - (3) Excavations. A permit shall be obtained from the director for any work performed within a public right-of-way. All excavation for installation or repair of private laterals, service laterals, force mains, collection lines or other connections or appurtenances shall

be adequately guarded with barricades and lights and shall meet all applicable safety standards. Streets, sidewalks, parkways, and other public property disturbed in the course of installation or repair shall be restored in a manner satisfactory to the director.

(5) Inspection. The permittee shall notify the director when the private lateral, service lateral, force main, or new collection line is ready for connection to the existing collection line. The city shall inspect the connection but shall not be liable for any deficiency or defect in the private lateral, service lateral or force main which is not discovered during inspection. The owner or developer of the property connected to the collection line shall correct any deficiency or defect upon discovery and shall be liable for any damage resulting from deficiency or defect, known or unknown.

3. **13.15.170 Separate private laterals required – Exceptions.**

(1) Separate Laterals Required. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a separate private lateral shall be provided to connect each building to a collection line.

4. **13.15.180 Owner responsibility for maintenance and repair of laterals.**

(1) Private Laterals. The owner of a building connected to the wastewater system is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the private lateral and any appurtenances, including the connection to the collection line. The owner shall keep the private lateral in good condition and repair and shall replace, at the owner's expense, any portions which, in the opinion of the director, have become unfit for further use because of damage to or disintegration of the private line.

(2) Service Laterals.

(a) If more than one building is connected to a service lateral, then the owners of each building shall be jointly and severally responsible for the maintenance and repair of the service lateral as provided in subsection (1) of this section.

(b) The director may impose additional requirements upon any owners of property connected to a service lateral to assure proper maintenance and repair and to allow the monitoring of wastewater quantity or quality.

5. **13.15.190 Disconnection from the wastewater system.**

If a user wishes to disconnect his or her building from the wastewater system, the user shall, at his or her sole expense, cap the private lateral at the property line. No new private lateral to replace an existing private lateral to be abandoned shall be approved until the abandoned private lateral is removed and properly capped. Caps shall be sufficiently tight to prevent the escape of wastewater or the infiltration of ground water or stormwater into the wastewater system. [Ord. 331 § 3, 2003].

6. **13.15.220 Unauthorized connections.**

(1) Collection System. No person shall make any connection to, openings into, use, uncover, alter, or disturb any collection line, private lateral, service lateral or other appurtenance to the wastewater system, without first obtaining all required permits.

(2) Payment of Fees, Charges, Liens – Permits. No person may connect to the wastewater system unless inspections required by permits have been conducted, all charges and fees have been paid, or any security required by the city has been applied for and approved.

(3) Discharge into Manholes. No person shall discharge any substance into a manhole or other opening into the wastewater system except through an inspected and approved private lateral, service lateral or collection line unless approved by the director.

(4) Downspouts and Other Surface Runoff to Private Lateral. No person shall directly or indirectly make or maintain a connection for roof downspouts, exterior foundation drains or any other source of surface runoff or ground water to the sanitary sewer system. [Ord. 331 § 3, 2003].

This letter was written to highlight key sections of our Municipal Code and to inform you of the specific rules and regulations that must be followed when any major change, modification, or alteration to any portion of the collection system is performed. The City is asking for your cooperation in complying with these rules and regulations. For your reference the City's Municipal Code is located at the City's website in its entirety: <http://www.coosbay.org/>. Understanding that there is a great deal of information in this letter, if you have any questions and/or concerns or if you feel that you have received this letter in error please contact me at your earliest convenience to discuss further.

Sincerely,



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cc

Jennifer Wirsing (Engineering Service Coordinator); Jim Hossley (Public Works and Development Director)