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The
Metropolitan
Sewer
District
of Greater
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(MSD)



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Combined Sewer Connection Credits Requirement Eliminated *Move Paves Way for More Affordable Community Development*

Cincinnati, OH – The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) is no longer requiring the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) to use combined sewer overflow (CSO) connection credits to control new sanitary flow from new development projects in order to comply with the federal Consent Decree.

Sewer connection credits have been used to regulate capacity and reduce combined sewer overflows. Ohio EPA previously required MSD to remove four gallons of stormwater flow from the combined sewer system before one gallon of new sanitary flow could be added, so that the CSO system would not become overburdened, particularly during wet weather. This requirement tended to restrict development in the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. New flow from development will still be governed by MSD's approved Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) Update, which is part of MSD's multi-year, multi-billion dollar Wet Weather Improvement Program (WWIP) called Project Groundwork. Now, MSD will submit an annual summary to OEPA of new and removed system flows. In addition, MSD will continue its efforts to reduce infiltration and inflow of wet weather into its collection systems.

"This is a win for the City and MSD," said MSD's Executive Director, Tony Parrott. "Development in Cincinnati will now be easier to facilitate and more affordable as we continue to improve the local economy and our environment."

"MSD should be commended for the work they've done to make this possible," said Odis Jones, Cincinnati's Economic Development Director. "This action will eliminate a complicated step placed on developers. Cincinnati is open for business."

As development and redevelopment occurs, MSD will still require sites to construct stormwater detention to reduce runoff, but a specific flow credit or off-set ratio will no longer be required as a result of continuing progress with Project Groundwork.

The City of Cincinnati's sewers, which were built about 180 years ago, were designed to carry storm water away from populated areas during wet weather. When indoor plumbing was introduced, sanitary sewage was added into the system. Today, most of the sewers within the City transport both stormwater and sanitary sewage in the same pipe. Over time, continued growth and development around Cincinnati created conditions where some sewers can't accommodate the amount of stormwater and wastewater directed into the system. As a result, the sewers were constructed to route the excess flow to area waterways.

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Every day, the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) protects the public's health and the environment through professional water reclamation and watershed management. As we collect and treat more than 180 million gallons of sewage daily from 43 municipalities, villages, and townships in Greater Cincinnati through 3,000 miles of sanitary or combined sewers, MSD serves you with honesty, integrity, accountability, and respect.

www.msdgc.org

www.projectgroundwork.org

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To address the outdated CSO system, MSD has improved systems and reduced CSOs and sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and is committed to continuing the effort. In 2011 MSD conducted a comprehensive water quality assessment of the Mill Creek that showed Mill Creek is a recovering waterway with significant improvements measured since the last evaluation in 1992.

“MSD has made great strides to reduce combined and sanitary sewer overflows to create a cleaner, healthier and more environmentally and economically sustainable community, added Parrott. “The decision by the Ohio EPA to lift the sewer credits requirement is a direct reflection of the great progress we’ve made under Project Groundwork.”

Project Groundwork started in 2009 and must be completed by 2018. It includes:

- 109 construction projects, including seven bundles or groupings of multiple projects across Hamilton County
- A three-year action plan for the Lower Mill Creek area to resolve two billion gallons of CSO’s each year, which has been submitted for approval by US EPA, Ohio EPA and ORSANCO
- The LM CPR project in Lick Run and other watersheds, already noted as a national model, has been submitted and is awaiting approval by US EPA, Ohio EPA and ORSANCO
- Special projects to address, reduce and/or eliminate overflows, including MSD’s Sustainable Infrastructure (Source Control) Program

A second phase will be completed after 2018 and includes more than 250 construction projects throughout Hamilton County.

For more information about Project Groundwork, visit www.projectgroundwork.org.

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