

# **SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

## **WATER & SEWER REGULATIONS**

### **WATER RULES and REGULATIONS**

The current Water Regulations were initially adopted in 1992 and last revised in 1998. The last revisions did not include the Water Management Act Permit Annual Water Restrictions, reference to the Town's Operations and Drought Management Plans, Dig Safe, Open Excavation and Trench Safety Laws, revised Meter Testing Statute, updated Definitions section and incorporates the Back flow "Ordinance" into the revised regulations.

#### **Section I – Authority**

- This section has been updated to reflect the current Statutes and Regulations under which the Town of Danvers operates the Water Distribution System.
- This section also references the Town's Bylaw under which these regulations are adopted.

#### **Section II – Definitions**

- The definition section has been expanded to include new wording further referenced in the proceeding sections of the regulations. This follows a standard format in developing any type of regulations.

#### **Section III – General Provisions**

- Much of this section is the same wording from the old regulations but clarifies that the Town does not provide "non-interruptible service", water use restriction right and the owner's obligation to abide by the water restrictions.
- The section states the conditions under which a permit application is signed by agreeing and binding the applicant to the rules and conditions under which a permit is issued.

#### **Section IV - Meters**

- This section updates the installation of the Water Service and installation of the Water Meter to reflect the meter standards used during the AMI Meter Installation.
- Meter Testing has been revised to reflect the recently adopted statute for testing.

#### **Section V – Back Flow and Cross Connections**

- Previously the Back Flow Cross Connection "Ordinance" was a standalone document and is now incorporated into the Water Rules and Regulations.

#### **Section VI - Fire Services (Sprinkler Systems)**

- This is a new section in the regulation and provides clear design criteria and installation procedures as the number of fire services in Town is increasing due to changes in State Fire Safety Regulations.

#### **Section VII – Service Renewal and Replacement**

- This section clarifies the right of the Town to order a customer to repair its portion of a water service to prevent the loss of water.
- The section also gives the Town the authority to enter onto the owner’s property, to make the repairs and bill the customer.

#### **Section VIII – Payment of Bills**

- This is a new section to the regulations that spells out the obligation for the customer to pay the water charges, abatement procedures, AMI opt out requirements, real estate transfers and time of sale inspections, liens for unpaid water bills and water shut off policy.
- This section authorizes the Board of water and Sewer Commissioners to set all rates and charges for the Water Division.

#### **Section IX – Enforcement**

- This is a new section that provides the Town with the authority to take enforcement actions in the event a customer violates the provisions of these regulations.

#### **Section X – Violations, Penalties & Severability**

- This is a new section to the regulations that follows standard language with respect to notification of violations, penalties, dispute resolution and severability if a section of the regulations is determined to be invalid it does not affect any other parts of the regulations.

## **SEWER USE REGULATIONS**

The current Sewer Use Regulations were adopted in November 1972 and have not been revised since. The one revision - the “2 for 1 Sewer Connection Program” was ruled invalid by the State Superior and Appellate Courts and removed from the regulations. Since the adoption of the current regulations in 1972, the South Essex Sewerage District has constructed the Primary (1979) and Secondary Treatment (1998) Facilities and are regulated by a NPDES Permit from EPA. The District is required to have both Sewer Use Regulations and Industrial Pretreatment (IPP) Regulations and issue IPP permits. The revisions to the Danvers Sewer Use Regulations incorporate both the local regulations and incorporates the requirements of the SED Sewer Regulation and IPP permitting.

### **Section I – Authority**

- This section adds all of the enabling legislations for both the Town and south Essex Sewerage District.

### **Section II – Definitions**

- The definition section has been expanded to include new wording further referenced in the proceeding sections of the regulations. This follows a standard format in developing any type of regulations.

### **Section III – General Provisions**

- The section states the conditions under which a permit application is signed by agreeing and binding the applicant to the rules and conditions under which a permit is issued.
- Much of this section is the same wording from the old regulations; the revisions clarifies that the Town does not provide “non-interruptible service”, the ownership of the service between the sewer main and the building and the requirement for special treatment systems in accordance with EPA’s pretreatment regulations managed and enforced by SESD.

### **Section IV – Use of Sewers**

- This section remains unchanged from the 1972 Regulations with the exception that the Town Engineer is to approve any potential stormwater that enters the sewer system. A good example is that under the plumbing code underground parking garages must discharge stormwater and snow melt from vehicles parked into the sanitary sewer system. This type of approval is the exception to not allowing any stormwater connection into the sanitary sewer system.

### **Section V – Protection from Damage**

- This section remains unchanged from the 1972 Regulations

### **Section VI – Powers and Authorities of Inspectors**

- This section remains unchanged under the 1972 Regulations

### **Section VII – Inspection at Time of Sale or Transfer**

- This is a new section taken from the Town of Ipswich Sewer Regulations calling for a time of sale inspection of a property. It gives the Town the authority to inspect for illegal connections such as a sump pump connected to the Town's sewer system. It gives the authority to the Department of Public Works to notify and to order the illegal connection be removed. The regulation also provides up to a six month time frame to correct the illegal connection.

### **Section VIII – Payment of Bills**

- This is a new section in the sewer regulations and is essentially identical as the Payment of Bill Section in the Water Regulations.

### **Section IX - Violations, Penalties & Severability**

- This is a new section to the regulations that follows standard language with respect to notification of violations, penalties, dispute resolution and severability if a section of the regulations is determined to be invalid it does not affect any other parts of the regulations.

## **POLICIES & GUIDELINES**

This document, adopted by the Water & sewer Commissioners, complies all of the written and unwritten policies and guidelines of the Water & Sewer Divisions. The newest guideline is the interim policy of how to notify customers when the Business Office identifies an unusually large continual water usage and the option to notify a customer.