

Plain City Corporation

4160 W 2200 N

Plain City, UT 84404

801-731-4908

March 31, 2009

Dear Plain City residents,

The City has recently completed a large project at our treatment facility to improve our ability to treat our wastewater to State standards for years into the future. We wanted to give you an idea of what we deal with as a City and give you information which will give you the tools to help us as we always strive to make things better. Our facility is located out on the northwest portion of our city. All of the wastewater, with the exception of a small portion generated on the very southeast part of town, flows to this point for treatment before entering the drainage systems which eventually makes its way to the Great Salt Lake.

The normal flow rate at the sewer lagoons is usually approximately 300,000 gallons per day. On the average, each household will discharge about 200 gallons per day. There are approximately 1500 homes presently connected to the sewer system. At the present time, the Plain City Sewer system is taking in and treating three to four times the normal daily amount. This extra flow has very large impact on the system. There are a total of 17 sewer lift stations. Each lift station has two submersible pumps in them that alternate on every other operating cycle. What this means is the cost for power to pump the sewer at these lift stations has increased by four times. Maintenance costs and wear have also increased by the same amount. At the sewage treatment facility, this creates a whole different situation. The sewer lagoon system was designed to handle a certain amount of flow with a certain amount of detention time. Currently at the rate of flow we are experiencing at the sewer lagoons, it is making it very difficult to stay within the parameters set by the Utah State Division of Water Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency of the effluent water discharged. To stay within the guidelines set for disinfection of the effluent discharge water, the cost for chlorine has also increased by four times. All of these cost increases directly affect every resident of Plain City.

Here is the bottom line: We have determined the most probable cause for the increase in the flow to be from illegal connections. Examples being, SUMP PUMPS, FOOTING DRAINS, TRENCH DRAINS, SURFACE DRAINS, ROOF DRAINS, RAIN GUTTER DOWN SPOUTS, AND DOG RUN DRAINS. A general rule is if does not come out of your body or is not water supplied by Bona Vista Water District to your home, it should not be discharged into the sewer, except Charmin of course!

In an effort to correct this problem, within the next couple months the Plain City Public Works Department will be smoke testing sewer lines throughout the city. About two weeks before we will be testing the line in your neighborhood, we will provide you with a notice and some simple instructions. We ask for your full cooperation in this endeavor.

A few of our citizens have asked what the ordinance directs in trying to correct these types of problems. We have added the applicable sections on the back side of this letter to help you understand what is being asked of you. The most important thing to keep in mind is that we are committed as a City to help you in any way we can in identifying and correcting these types of problems. All you need to do is contact us and we will look over your situation and help you with ideas and ways you can fix it if it is not up to code.

Please do not hesitate to contact us and let us help you before the penalty phase of the inspections start to kick in and function.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Mitch Willson
Plain City Public Works

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8-1-9 (F). Drainage Waters and Destructive Materials: It shall be unlawful for any person to connect with a public sanitary sewer any drain or pipe which discharges rainwater, cellar or surface water, acids, alkalis, lye or other injurious liquids, or the contents of any springs, flowing well, creek, ditch or other water courses. No boiler or heating plant shall be directly connected to the sanitary sewer. The over flow from the boilers or heating plants, when cooled to a temperature not to exceed one hundred twenty degrees Fahrenheit (120°F), will be connected to a sump, which sump shall be connected to the sewer. The discharge of the contents of waste pipes from water filters, gas engines, air compressors, vacuum or dry cleaners, garages, wash racks, stores or warehouses which contain inflammable substances, buildings for the stabling or keeping horses, cows, and other animals, and all similar establishments, shall not be made into or connected with the with a sanitary sewer, unless such contents are discharged settling tanks properly trapped and vented. Settling tanks shall be constructed of a material approved by the public works director and shall be at all times be subject to his inspection and approval or condemnation. Upon condemnation by the public works director, the sewage from said tanks shall not be allowed to flow into sewer until satisfactory alterations have been made and construction approved by the public works director.

8-1-8: ACCESS BY DEPARTMENT: The public works director and his agents shall at ordinary hours have free access to places supplied with sewer services from the city system for purpose of examining the apparatus, ascertaining the sewer service being used and the manner of its use. (Ord. 2005-08, 8-18-2005, eff. 8-18-2005)