

TOWN OF NARRAGANSETT
SEWER POLICY

(Effective April 18, 1995)

(Revised July 15, 1996 (Section 3c))

(Revised December 6, 1999 (Section 3c))

(Revised July 7, 2008 (Section 8))

(Revised May 21, 2018)

WHEREAS, the Town of Narragansett has undergone a dramatic increase in community growth since the construction of the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facilities and the Scarborough Wastewater Treatment Facilities, and

WHEREAS, said wastewater treatment facilities of the Town have limited capacities, and

WHEREAS, the Towns of Narragansett and South Kingstown, and the University of Rhode Island (URI) are Regional partners at the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facilities, and

WHEREAS, each Regional partner at the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facilities has been allocated a specific share of the facility's capacity (based on a capital cost-sharing agreement), and

WHEREAS, Narragansett leases additional flow space (capacity) from URI to supplement its purchased capacity, and

WHEREAS, the combined wastewater flows from the North End of Town and the Narragansett Pier area equals approximately 80% of the Town's allotted and leased share of the capacity of the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facilities, and

WHEREAS, the average daily flow of wastewater into the Scarborough Wastewater Treatment Facilities is within the limits of that facility's discharge permit, and

WHEREAS, the Town can expect incremental additional wastewater flows into both sewer systems, and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes the need for implementing a long-term sewer development plan and administrative policy to provide a rational, equitable, and orderly procedure for providing sewer utility service to areas of the Town of Narragansett, and

WHEREAS, detailed engineering studies have been completed to address the issue of the enhancement and expansion of both treatment facilities, and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to allow limited expansion of its conveyance system in terms of new extensions and new connections to specific existing sewers, and

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WHEREAS, the Town has investigated and implemented options for securing additional flow capacity at the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facilities, including the lease of unused flow space from another regional partner or partners, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has in place a standing Sewer Policy Committee that meets on an ad-hoc basis to hear appeals of staff level denials related to the administration of this Policy.

Now therefore the Town Council of the Town of Narragansett adopts the following resolution and policy:

1. There are hereby created two Sanitary Sewer Areas in the Town of Narragansett, hereinafter called "Sewer Area".

Said Sewer Areas are officially delineated in a map on file in the Engineering Department hereto entitled "Sanitary Sewer Areas Boundaries of Narragansett", which areas are further defined as:

AREA I.

Those areas in Narragansett serviced by the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facilities and certain areas not yet sewered but prioritized for sewer extensions under the "Facilities Plan for Wastewater Management" (adopted December 2007), and other such areas as may be designated by the Town from time to time, and as amended by elements of the Coastal Resources Management Program, and

AREA II.

Those areas serviced by the Scarborough Wastewater Treatment Facilities and certain areas not yet sewered but designated for sewer extensions under the "Facilities Plan for Wastewater Management" (adopted December 2007) as amended by elements of the Coastal Resources Management Program, and other such areas as designated by the Town from time to time.

2. Any parcel of land located within the Sewer Areas which abuts a sewer line may be permitted to tie in to the Narragansett Sewer system, and:
 - a) The requested sewer connection is in an area where the existing sewer line and associated pumping treatment facilities are of sufficient capacity, elevation and design as determined by the Town Engineer, to accommodate the wastewater flow.

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- b) The owner of the parcel agrees to abide by all conditions, restrictions, standards, specifications, design criteria, and to pay all fees which may be established by the Town of Narragansett.
 - c) Connections into sewer force mains shall be permitted only under the following conditions:
 - i. The connection requested is into a pressure sewer line specifically designed to accommodate lateral connections (i.e. low pressure sewer system).
 - ii. The connection requested is into a valve access manhole that has been designed to accept additional pressurized connections.
 - d) Permits issued under this Section will be on a one (1) permit per unit basis, with no more than one (1) permit issued per platted lot, with all said lots legally platted, filed, and recorded prior to the adoption of this Policy.
3. Extensions of sanitary sewers to parcels of land within a Sewer Area which do not abut existing sewer shall be permitted only under the following conditions:
- a) Parcels of land within the unsewered areas of a Sewer Area may be connected as the capacity of the Town's sewage facilities becomes available. It shall be the policy of the Town of Narragansett to support the extension of sewer lines into areas previously prioritized for sewer service within the Facilities Plan for Wastewater Management (adopted December 2007).
 - b) All proposals to extend sewer lines into areas covered by this Policy shall conform to all technical and administrative standards and procedures as may be established by the Town, including but not limited to all provisions of Section 2 of this Policy.
 - c) Extensions may be granted for a length not to exceed five hundred (500) linear feet from a public sewer physically installed and accepted prior to the adoption of the April 18, 1995 Policy and located within an established public road or right-of-way, provided said extension is also installed within an established public road or right-of-way.
 - d) The location of all existing public sewers will be as determined by the Town, unless otherwise approved by the Town Engineer.

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- e) Extensions will be granted only for those lots legally platted, filed, and recorded prior to the adoption of this Policy.
 - f) Permits for any and all lots fronted by any new extension installed under this Section will be issued on a one (1) permit per unit basis, with no more than one (1) permit issued per platted lot, with all said lots legally platted, filed, and recorded prior to the adoption of this Policy.
 - g) All extensions are subject to inspection and approval by the Town. After said approval, the extension becomes the property of the Town, subject to the administrative and technical standards and procedures set forth by the Town; the party who obtained the extension permit (applicant) shall forfeit all rights to said extension including but not limited to the ability to control future connections and/or extensions and the ability to obtain financial or other considerations for same, notwithstanding Sect. 78-333 of the Code of Ordinances.
 - h) The applicant shall bear the full responsibility for all costs, including but not limited to survey, design, construction, inspection, and generation of as-built records associated with the extension.
4. There shall be no sewer connections or extensions to parcels of land not located within the Sewer Areas.
 5. Nothing within this Policy shall supersede or alter any applicable provisions of the Town of Narragansett Ordinance Chapter 599, "An Ordinance Relating to the Construction of Sewer Lines by Private Parties in the Pettaquamscutt Cove Area of Assessor's Plat A", adopted July 18, 1988.
 6. Nothing within this Policy shall supersede or alter any applicable provisions of the Town Council decision that was ratified, approved, and confirmed on June 26, 1985, specifically regarding low pressure sewers in the Edgewater Plat.
 7. Within Sewer Area I as defined previously herein (North End and Pier area), the Town may consider requests for relief under this Policy. Criteria for consideration by the Sewer Policy Committee shall be as stated in the "Implementation" section of this document, and terms and conditions for relief shall include the following:

- a) Residential projects must meet the definition of a major subdivision or land development project pursuant to the current subdivision regulations at the time of application. Proposed commercial, industrial, or institutional developments that exceed 5,000 square feet of total floor area will also be eligible for consideration. Existing developed single properties that legally conform to all zoning ordinances as of the date of this amendment and that have documented ISDS failures or cesspools would also be eligible to apply. Said properties must comply with the provisions of **Subparagraphs b, c, d, e, and f** below.
- b) The applicant will be required to pay all customary fees and charges, including sewer assessments, Sewer Lot Development Fees, etc. in effect at the time of application.
- c) The applicant will be required to pay an Inflow/Infiltration (I/I) Removal Fee as calculated by the Town, in addition to the fees and charges noted above.

Said fee (further defined in **Subparagraph d**) will be based on the number of proposed units (or equivalent in the case of commercial, industrial, or institutional projects), the estimated flow from same, a peaking factor, and current (as defined by the Town) I/I removal costs. At the sole discretion of the Town, the applicant may be required to perform an actual I/I removal action (in lieu of paying the aforementioned fee).

- d) The basis for the Inflow/Infiltration Removal Fee will be derived from relevant and contemporary studies conducted by the Town, but in no case less than the following formula:

$$(\$2.96/\text{gallon}) (450 \text{ gallons/unit/day}) (2.5 \text{ peaking factor}) (\# \text{ of units})$$

The “450 gallons/unit/day” figure may be adjusted by the Town to reflect comparable flow figures from other existing developments.

- e) The Inflow/Infiltration Removal Fee must be paid in full at the time of application. Should the Town elect to order an actual I/I removal action, said action shall be fully completed and accepted by the Town prior to the issuance of any sewer permits.

- f) Residential projects as defined under **Subparagraph a** above must comply with the policies of the Town of Narragansett Affordable Housing Plan, as adopted by the Town Council on November 1, 2004, as amended. Further, for proposed residential housing developments to qualify for relief under this provision of the Sewer Policy, the following will apply:
 - i. If the project confirms to the minimum percentage set by the Affordable Housing Plan (AHP), then the I/I peaking factor as defined in **Subparagraph d** above will be four (4) times the actual flow.
 - ii. If the project falls between the minimum percentage set by the AHP and 50% affordable in terms of qualified units, then the I/I peaking factor as defined in **Subparagraph d** will be three (3) times the actual flow.
 - iii. If the project exceeds 50% affordable in terms of qualified units, then the I/I peaking factor as defined in **Subparagraph d** above will be two and on-half (2.5) times the actual flow.
- g) The proposed project must comply with all current Town ordinances, regulations, and codes. **Subparagraphs a through f** inclusive shall also apply to all projects approved under a comprehensive permit.
- h) The Town hereby establishes a not-to-exceed threshold of 85% of its available capacity (owned and/or leased) at the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facilities. This threshold will be based on a running three (3) year average of actual flows at the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facilities, and the Town's flow contribution thereto.

Implementation

In order to implement this Policy, the following items are noted:

1. Continue to administer the Facilities Plan for Wastewater Management relative to the development of sewer facilities consistent with the previously mentioned studies, to the extent possible to most effectively service areas within the boundaries of the Sewer Areas, and
2. To pursue further reduction of groundwater infiltration and illegal discharges into the Town's wastewater collection system, and

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3. To maintain and implement a Sewer Lot Development Fee structure whereby future development will fund future municipal improvements and capital expenditures directly attributable to those developments.
4. Criteria for consideration by the Sewer Policy Committee will include:
 - A. Conformance with the Comprehensive Plan.
 - B. Conformance with the Facilities Plan for Wastewater Management.
 - C. Environmental benefit.
 - D. Reserving a portion of the capacity for future failed/failing OWTS's.
 - E. Funding (private, or public contribution needed).
 - F. Platted land, or speculation (refer to Section 3(f) herein).
 - G. Proximity to other sewered areas; potential impact of opening new Sewer Areas.
 - H. Compelling public interest, good, or need.
 - I. Undue hardship directly caused by the Policy.
 - J. Conformance with the goals of the Town's Affordable Housing Plan.