APPENDIX M

Sewage Spill Response Plan
Sanitary Sewer Overflow Response and Notification Plan

May, 2015
City of Puyallup Public Works

Sanitary Sewer Overflow Response and Notification Plan

Whenever sanitary sewage leave the confines of the piping system, immediate action is necessary to prevent environmental, public health or financial damage from occurring. In addition, quick action is normally needed to mitigate damage which may have already occurred. For the purpose of this section, the following SSO (sanitary sewer overflow) categories are part of the emergency action plan.

1. An overflow that results in a discharge to waters of the United States (or waters of the state) and/or an overflow of wastewater, including a wastewater backup into a building (caused by solely by a blockage or other malfunction in a City owned sewer pipe or building lateral).

2. An overflow of wastewater, including a wastewater backup into a building (caused by solely by a blockage or other malfunction in a privately owned sewer pipe or building lateral).

All of the above conditions are likely to cause some damage. Each should be treated as an emergency, and corrective actions taken in accordance with the City of Puyallup’s directions. Both categories 1 & 2 should be reported immediately to the Collections Division within Public Works for further investigation and possible damage remediation and control. Category 1 will be reported to the EPA within 24 hours and a written report will be sent to EPA, DOE, and The Puyallup Tribe within 5 days. The City of Puyallup is responsible for the O&M of the sanitary sewer system within the public's right-of-way as well as dedicated easements. All overflows are treated as the City’s responsibility until reasonable evidence shows otherwise. Care should be taken to provide advice to the property owner in cases where the City is not liable, but the property owner is ultimately the decision maker about what actions should be taken.
Response Activities

There are specific steps that should be followed once a notification is received that an overflow may be occurring. The following figure outlines actions that could be taken when the City of Puyallup Public Works receives notice that a possible overflow has or is occurring.

General Notification Procedure

When a SSO occurs, specific notification requirement are needed. In such cases the following Notification procedure should be followed and documented.

Agency Notification Requirements

The EPA, DOE, The Puyallup Tribe and The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept. (TPCHD) should be immediately notified when an overflow is occurring and causing damage to public health and the environment. Others that may require notification include local water suppliers and affected property owners. The initial notification must be given within 24 hours. However, attempts should be made to notify them as soon as possible so they can observe the problem and the extent of the issue while the problem is happening. After an SSO has taken place and the cleanup has been done, a written
report of the event should be submitted to the EPA, DOE, and The Puyallup Tribe within five days. This report should be specific and should be inclusive of all work completed. If possible the report should also include a description of follow-up actions such as modeling or problem corrections that has or will take place.

**Public Notification**

When an SSO occurs and the extent of the overflow is significant and the damage cannot be contained, the public may be notified through proper communication channels. Normally the local health department will coordinate such notification. Should the City of Puyallup need to provide notification it could include press releases to the local news agencies, publication in an area paper, and leaflets delivered to home owners or citizens in the area of the SSO. Notification should be sufficient to insure that the public health is protected.

**Overflow Cleanup**

When an overflow happens, care should be taken to clean up the environment to the extent feasible based on technology, good science and financial capabilities. Cleanup could include removal of contaminated water and soil saturated with wastewater and toilet paper, disinfection of standing water with environmentally adequate chemicals or partitioning of the affected area from the public until natural soil microbes reduce the hazard. Cleanup is usually specific to the affected area and may differ from season to season. As such, this guide does not include specific details about cleanup. The responsible staff member in conjunction with the local health department and the owner of real property should direct activities in such a manner that they are all satisfied with the overall outcomes. If, during the cleaning process, the responsible staff member believes an involved agency is requesting excessive actions, the public works director should be contacted.

**Corrective Action**

All SSO’s should be followed up with an analysis as to cause and possible corrective actions. An SSO which is the result of grease or root plug may be placed on the preventative maintenance list for more frequent cleaning. Serious or repetitive plugging problems may require the reconstruction of the sewer lines. An overflow that results from inadequate capacity should be followed by additional system modeling and either
flow reduction or capacity increase. If a significant or unusual weather condition caused flooding which was introduced to the sanitary sewer system incorrectly, the corrective action may include working with other agencies to try and rectify the cross connection from the storm sewer to the sanitary sewer or from home drainage systems and sump pumps. Finally, should a problem be such that it is not anticipated to reoccur, no further action may be needed.

Agency Information:

US EPA Region 10
Attn: ICIS Data Entry Team
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
OCCE-133
Seattle, WA 98101-3140
NPDES Compliance Hotline (within 24 hours) (206) 553-1846

The Puyallup Tribe
Environmental Department
3009 E. Portland Ave,
Tacoma, WA 98404

Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
(360) 407-6300

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
(253) 798-6470

See next page for local water purveyor contact information.