

Bureau of Engineering

Notice

January 24, 2007

Notice No. 007

To All: Senior Managers
Division/District Managers
Group Managers

Subject: **UTILIZATION OF EXISTING HOUSE CONNECTION LATERALS INSTALLED PRIOR TO 1965 IN PERMIT RELATED CONSTRUCTION**

Effective immediately, the integrity of sewer house connection (HC) laterals constructed prior to 1965 shall be verified by Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) inspection prior to approval of continued use. Further, where an existing HC lateral is constructed of concrete pipe, which is found to be in acceptable condition, the pipe shall be rehabilitated by installation of an approved liner prior to approval of its continued use.

Much of the City's infrastructure has been exposed to earthquakes of considerable magnitude, such as the 1971 Sylmar, 1987 Whittier, and 1994 Northridge earthquakes, which subjected HC laterals to damage from ground movement. In addition, the pipe material and the types of joints utilized in house connection laterals installed prior to 1965 are inferior to current standards. (Note: The portion of pipeline referred to as the HC lateral, is the portion of pipeline located in the public right-of-way, or sewer easement, connecting a lot to the public sewer).

Therefore, special consideration of the age and condition of existing house connection laterals must be made in the issuance of sewer connection permits. This applies to the extension of, connection to, or reconnection to existing HC laterals.

Of specific concern are HC laterals with the following conditions:

1. HC installed prior to the year 1965: The types of joints used for Vitrified Clay Pipes (VCP) installed prior to 1965 are especially susceptible to root intrusion and leakage resulting from loss of integrity of the pipe due to ground movement. The current condition of any HC lateral installed prior to 1965 must be verified for integrity prior to permitting new connections.
2. Concrete pipe HC laterals: Concrete pipes (aka, "cement pipes") have the potential to react with gases associated with the conveyance of wastewater flows subjecting the pipe to degradation. The continued use of such laterals should be conditioned upon verifying the integrity of the pipe by means of CCTV inspection, and specifying pipe rehabilitation by lining (if the pipe is determined to be in reasonably good condition), or pipe replacement.

Determination of the suitability of HC laterals to be able to receive and convey flow should be incorporated into HC permit issuance procedures for the following reasons:

- Maintenance of HC laterals is the responsibility of the benefiting property owner and the City's leverage in verifying the integrity of such connections is associated with permit issuance and approval of private development plans.

ATTACHMENT I-6

- Street Damage Restoration Fees and the City's policy with regard to the moratorium on the cutting of new, widened, or repaved streets.
- The difference in cost for repair or replacement of an existing house connection lateral, or portion thereof, as part of a specific project as compared to the cost for such work after completion of the project.
- Subsequent owner's liability to incur the cost of HC lateral repair after completion of the development project.
- The ready availability of and minor cost for utilization of suitable technology such as CCTV for the visual inspection of such laterals.

Guidelines

In conjunction with issuance of an **S-Permit** to a contractor or property owner for an extension of a pre-1965 vitrified clay HC connection or any concrete HC or any reconnection at the property line, the permit shall specify CCTV inspection of the existing lateral and include the cost of one hour Special Inspection Fee for inspection by the Bureau of Contract Administration (BCA).

When CCTV inspection is required, the **inspector's copy** of the sewer permit shall be forwarded to the **BCA** rather than the Department of Building and Safety. The CCTV inspection shall be accomplished in the presence of the inspector prior to extension of or connection to the existing lateral. The inspector shall make a determination of the condition of the lateral and acknowledge the property line connection.

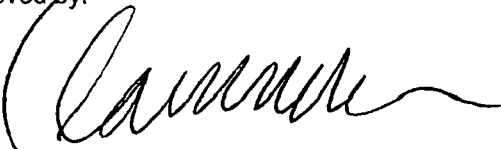
For concrete pipe house connections, either the entire lateral is to be replaced, or inspected by CCTV to verify the structural integrity, then rehabilitated by lining.

If the CCTV identifies that repair work is required, a supplemental permit can be issued if the original S-Permit was obtained by a bonded sewer contractor. However, if the original S-Permit was not issued to a bonded sewer contractor, a separate permit must be issued to a bonded sewer contractor to make any repairs, lining or extensions.

These instructions have been added to Section 8.5 (S-Permits) of the Permit Manual.

In the case of **B-Permits**, the applicable Notes already exist in the Plan Check Manual to accomplish the requirement except for the use of liners. The option to use liners has been added to the Standard B-Permit Notes.

(CWR)

EXE/CWR/gva Notice No. 007	Approved by:  Clark W. Robins, Deputy City Engineer
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