

Seeley Lake- Missoula County Sewer District Rules and Regulations amendments as discussed by Board members/public on September 19 at board meeting

Section 305 Connection to Public Sewer System Required

Substitute Language proposed- (Section 305 is on pages 14 and 15 of the Rules and Regs)
(based on comments from Health Dept and board members)

The Owner of any house, building, or other property within the District that is used for human occupancy, business, employment or recreation and that generates wastewater must connect the structure generating wastewater to the public sewer within 180 days of a sewer main being available.

A sewer main is available when it is located in the street or public right of way that abuts the property, comes within 500 feet of the property line, and the wastewater capacity is sufficient to serve the property.

In the Connection Permit, the District may extend the deadline for connection for up to 3 months if weather conditions will likely prevent installation of the service lateral during the 180 day period.

The cost of connecting to the public system with a sewer lateral and abandoning the existing septic system shall be at the expense of the Owner(s) and shall be in accordance with the provisions of these Rules and Regulations, except as provided below.

The District will include the cost of constructing the Sewer Lateral to connect any existing house, building or other property that generates wastewater and to abandon the existing septic system in accordance with the provisions of these Rules and Regulations during the construction of each Phase of the Collection System if the Owner has provided a notarized Temporary Right of Entry for Construction form, Appendix C, by the noticed deadline for each Phase.

The Owner(s) of a property that is not connected, as part of the Construction of a Phase of the Collection System, must obtain a Connection Permit pursuant to the procedures described in Chapter 8.

Strike Exemptions section on page 15 in total and strike Appendix D and E

Reason- There are only 2 Level 2 systems in sewer district - one is older than 5 years, the other is Rovero's which generates a lot of wastewater and needs public sewer
Vacant lots will not have to connect until they have a building with a use that generates wastewater so the exemption is not necessary.

318 Measurements, Tests and Analyses add- For Pretreated Wastewater (board asked who has to do this- only those with waste that requires pretreatment. They must show it meets the standards to go into the treatment plant)

Rates, Fees, and Charges

601- Purpose & Policy New paragraphs after #4 to read- **substitute language**

The allocation of rates, fees and charges shall assure that each user of the wastewater treatment facilities pays a proportionate share of the cost of the facilities.

The fixed and variable costs for the system OM& R shall be allocated to all residential and commercial users of the sewer system on the basis of metered water. In the event that a meter is not available then EDUs shall be used as the basis for billing. Properties with meter bases that do not meet the adopted MT Plumbing Code shall be charged based on EDUs.

Last paragraph in this section remains the same

Section 602 Wastewater Cost Apportionment Method (amended language)

The Volume Ratio Unit (VRU) method of determining user ‘equivalency’ as portrayed in the VRU Conversion Schedule, Appendix B will be used for the establishment of wastewater rates and fees.

The fixed and variable costs will be allocated to all residential and commercial users of the sewer system on the basis of metered water. In the event that a meter is not available then equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) will be used as the basis for billing. The VRU conversion schedule shows the multiplier for types of use.

Connections that exceed normal flow will be charged at a rate equal to 1.5 times the base rate charge per EDU for the amount of flow that is demonstrated to exceed a daily average of 250 gallons per EDU. The surcharge shall be applied for the period of time the flow exceeds that daily average.

Amend Appendix A- Table of Rates

Amendments

Benefited Property charge- change quarterly for no users to Quarterly for unimproved lots
Plant investment Charge- change collection application to Connection Application
add-Collection System Investment Charge - \$7,154 per VRU - One time upon submission of Connection Application

Footnote 5- Equals principal paid per parcel when Phase 1 Collection system was built and financed

The rates, charges, fees appendix would be amended to add future phases through a public process

Amend Appendix B- VRU Conversion Schedule (it was appendix C)

Chapter 11- Sewer Laterals and Extension

(amend title to add- and Existing System Abandonment) Proper abandonment of tanks, cesspools and seepage pits will prevent them from collapsing in the future and creating safety hazards near homes and businesses. Pumping removes the sewage for public health reasons. Reputable contractors know this but putting it in the rules makes it clear and consistent.

1101 Purpose and Policy

Amend to add

(4) Ensure existing septic tanks, seepage pits and cesspools are abandoned according to adopted public health regulations.

New 1147 - Existing System Abandonment

Once a property is connected to sewer, existing septic tanks, seepage pits and cesspools must be located, pumped and crushed or filled in accordance with the Missoula City-county Health Code, Regulation 1. *(this will be required of the contractor connecting properties as part of the Project too)*

Amend Definitions (underlined = new language)

9. "Equivalent Dwelling Unit" (EDU) means the equivalent of an average single family dwelling. (residential customer) EDU is used when a property does not have a water meter or if the diameter of the meter and pipe serving the building does not meet the adopted MT Plumbing code for the existing use. (VRU is the unit of measurement used with metered properties).

36. "Volume Ratio Unit" (VRU) means a unit of measurement based on the amount of water flow. Rates and fees will be applied per Volume Ratio Unit as determined by the size of the water meter installed.

For purposes of rate making and billing, the VRU of a service connection becomes a multiplier from the reference size (minimum service available from the District) of a ¾ inch water line. Appendix B- lists the various water service sizes and the corresponding multiplier that will be used for the establishment of rates and fees. (took out references in both EDU and VRU definitions related to number of bedrooms- there will be a base of 250 gallons/day/ dwelling and per gallon above the base charge that equals 100 gallons per day x 2.5 people)

38. Wastewater Operation, Maintenance, Repair and Replacement (O,M & R) ~~-strike~~
WWOM&R throughout document- means all costs associated with the operation, maintenance and repairs of the wastewater treatment and collection systems which are necessary to maintain the capacity and performance of the respective systems. The total annual costs of O,M & R shall include but need not be limited to: labor, repairs, equipment replacement, maintenance, necessary modifications, power, sampling, laboratory tests, and a reasonable contingency fund. It shall include district administration and the establishment and maintenance of required reserves including reserves for depreciation and replacement of facilities (MCA 7-13-2280-2290). This will be included in O M& R- see description in 622.

Add new definitions-re-number as needed

Base Rate- means the monthly minimum fee based on the water meter size for each service. Unmetered properties will be assessed a flat rate based on EDU for the use.

Monthly Service Charge shall be a combination of a base rate and a per thousand gallon usage charge for OM&R.

“Plant Investment Charge”. The new service connection fee or Plant Investment Charge is a variable fee (over time) intended to recover an equivalent user’s pro rata share of the capital cost for the construction and provisioning of the sewer system.