



YPSILANTI COMMUNITY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

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YPSILANTI COMMUNITY UTILITIES AUTHORITY (YCUA)

**POLICY ON OWNERSHIP, MAINTENANCE
AND REPAIR OF SEWER SERVICE LEADS**

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Public Act 233 of 1955, the enabling statute under which the YCUA was created and operates, and Public Act 222 of 2001, the Sewage Event Claims Act (“the Act”), provide that YCUA owns and operates a “sewage disposal system,” which is defined in each statute as:

All interceptor sewers, storm sewers, sanitary sewers, combined sanitary and storm sewers, sewage treatment plants, and all other plants, works, instrumentalities, and property used are useful in connection with the collection, treatment, or disposal of sewage or industrial waste.

2. A “sewage disposal system” does **not** include a “sewer service lead,” which is defined in the Act, as:

An instrumentality that connects an affected property, including a structure, fixture, or improvement on the property, to the sewage disposal system and that is neither owned nor maintained by a governmental agency.

3. As provided in these statutes, sewer service leads (aka “laterals”), from the point of connection to the sewer main to the point of connection to the owner’s home or other structure, are installed, owned, maintained and repaired by private property owners and are not a part of the YCUA sewage disposal system. YCUA does not install, does not own, and does not maintain sewer service leads.

4. For the general health, safety and welfare of YCUA customers, YCUA has an interest in the uninterrupted and proper function of sewer service leads and the prompt, correct, and safe repair of blocked or otherwise compromised sewer service leads, particularly when repair involves the excavation and restoration of curbs and roadways and attendant traffic control and safety issues.

B. POLICY

1. When a sewer service lead is blocked or damaged to the extent that hands-on repair is necessary, YCUA will complete the repair, from the inside edge of the sidewalk to the sewer main or, in the absence of a sidewalk, from the commonly recognized property line to the sewer

main, including excavation and road surface and curb repair or reinstallation, and installation of a new tap at the sewer main, as needed.

2. When a property owner replaces a sewer service lead and excavation and exposure of the entire lead is not necessary, YCUA may, at its option, place or insert a plastic pipe inside the sewer service lead, from the inside edge of the sidewalk to the sewer main or, in the absence of a sidewalk, from the commonly recognized property line to the sewer main, including excavation and road surface and curb repair or reinstallation, and installation of a new tap at the sewer main, as needed.

3. In cases of sewer service lead cleaning and sewer service lead blockage caused by tree roots, the property owner is responsible for cleaning the owner's sewer service lead; YCUA does not and will not accept direct billing from a private sewer cleaning company or plumber unless YCUA has requested and hired the cleaning company or plumber; and, YCUA does not and will not reimburse a property owner for a televised inspection of a sewer service lead unless authorized in advance by the YCUA Transmission and Distribution Supervisor or the Supervisor's designee.

4. YCUA will provide the services identified in paragraphs 1. and 2., above, if and only if the affected property owner signs a written acknowledgment and agreement that, by providing these services to the owner YCUA does not assume ownership or control or any maintenance and repair responsibility as to any part of the property owner's sewer service lead and that the sewer service lead, from the point of connection at the owner's home, business or other structure to the point of connection at the sewer main, is owned by and remains the sole responsibility of the property owner.

5. This policy replaces all rules and policies previously adopted by the YCUA Board or otherwise implemented by YCUA relative to the ownership, maintenance and repair of sewer service leads or payments for repair of sewer service leads, which are revoked by this policy.

6. This policy is consistent with YCUA's Policy on Sewer Backups, adopted on July 24, 2019, which is incorporated into this policy.

Certification

Adopted and approved by the YCUA Board of Commissioners at its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on July 24, 2019.

DATED: July 24, 2019.

YCUA Board of Commissioners

By: 
BRENDA L. STUMBO

Its: Chair

