

Kevin L. Shafer, P.E. Executive Director

August 18, 2009

Jeffrey J. Mantes Commissioner of Public Works 841 North Broadway, Room 701 Milwaukee, WI 53202

Subject:

Sewer Backup concerns in the area bounded by North 76th Street to North 100th

Street from West Center Street to West Grantosa Drive

Dear Mr. Mantes:

This is in response to your July 15, 2009 letter regarding sewer backups in the area outlined above. Your letter requested that we respond directly to Alderman Bohl, but after investigating the issues, we believe that it more appropriate to respond to you, as the evidence indicates that the issues are related to the City's sewer system.

As a result of our investigation, we offer the following information:

- Alderman Bohl's letter suggests that the MMSD put in a new pump near the
 intersection of Center Street and Menomonee River Parkway. The MMSD does not
 have a pump at the intersection of West Center Street and the Menomonee River
 Parkway. The MMSD does have a permanent flow meter (MS0338) in the intersection
 of West Center Street and the Menomonee River Parkway. This flow meter was
 recently upgraded, and that could be to what the residents are referring.
- The flowmeter is a permanent area-velocity flow meter located in a short segment (100 feet or so) of 24" MIS that serves this area. This 24" MIS discharges to the 96" MIS. Data from that meter for the June event indicates that the flow rose from a depth of about one inch at 11:50 p.m. on June 18, 2009 to a maximum depth in the manhole of 22 inches at 1:20 a.m. on June 19, 2009. These readings held steady for about 30 minutes before starting to drop. These data indicate the 24" MIS did not surcharge (only rose to 22"), and, thus, we believe did not contribute to basement backups in the area.
- Alderman Bohl's letter suggests that deep tunnel gates have been closing prematurely, forcing water to back up into basements. The MMSD does not have gates to the deep tunnel in this vicinity. The nearest MMSD location that allows flow to enter the deep tunnel is on the County Grounds. The operation of these gates has no impact on the homes of the residents listed in the attachment to your letter. Moreover, these gates milwaukee metropolitan sewerage district

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did not close prematurely during the June 18 event. It is also important to remember that, in those locations where the operation of the tunnel gates does impact the local sanitary systems, the closing of the combined sewer gates actually helps to protect the homes on the local sewer system from basement backups.

• The MMSD's 2020 Facilities Plan identified this tributary area, MI3065, as "poorly performing" in terms of excess infiltration and inflow (I/I). This means that this tributary area has excessive amounts of clear water (I/I) entering the City's sanitary sewer system and overloading it. The MMSD has since performed additional flow monitoring, which verifies that this area is poorly performing. The MMSD will follow up with you via separate correspondence concerning this issue.

If you have any questions, please contact Timothy R. Bate at 414.225.2156.

Sincerely,

Kevili L. Shaler, P.

Executive Director

Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

c: Alderman James A. Bohl, Jr.

Jeffrey S. Polenske

Martin A. Aquino

Michael J. Martin

Timothy R. Bate







