

# Quarterly Update

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## Region to Tackle Infiltration and Inflow from Private Property

By Richard Stahr, Brown & Caldwell

Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) are known villains that can cause sanitary sewer overflows, which are illegal under the Clean Water Act. I/I is rainwater and groundwater that enters pipelines through cracks, leaks, and improper connections (i.e. roof leaders, etc.). During rainy periods I/I can rob pipelines of capacity needed to convey sewage.

Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) and 13 Hampton Roads localities, as required by a state consent order, are exploring ways to control I/I from private property that ends up in publicly owned and maintained sewers.

Generally, sewers on the private side of the right of way line are owned and maintained by the property owner. Pipes on the highway side of the right of way line are owned and maintained by the locality. Rainwater and groundwater can get into the private sewers from improper connections (roof leaders, sump pumps, etc.) and defects (cracks, breaks, etc.) in the buried piping.

Nationally, the challenge of private property I/I has been shown to be substantial. Private side I/I is often as big a culprit as public side I/I. Property owners have the responsibility to properly maintain and repair the private sewers, but may be unaware that their pipes are causing a problem.

The group that is developing an I/I program for Hampton Roads is reviewing programs from other parts of Virginia and the US to identify a range of options that might be effective locally. Ultimately, the program is likely to require private property owners to replace their sewer pipes if it is determined that they are contributing excessive amounts of I/I into the public sewers.

A model program to address private side I/I should be ready by October 2010 for consideration, adoption and implementation by HRSD and the localities.

[\(See related graphic on back\)](#)

**Regional Wet Weather Management Plan**

**Quarterly Update**

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# Help Protect Our Waterways by Reporting Suspected Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO)

Please call the number listed for your locality if you observe an SSO.

<u>Locality</u>	<u>During Business Hours</u>	<u>After Business Hours</u>
Chesapeake Public Utilities	757-382-CITY	757-382-3550
Gloucester Public Utilities	804-693-4044	804-693-3890
Hampton Public Works	757-727-8311	757-727-8311
Isle of Wight Public Utilities	757-365-6284	757-357-2151
James City Service Authority	757-229-7421	757-566-0112
Newport News Public Works	757-269-2750	757-247-2500
Norfolk Public Utilities	757-823-1000	757-823-1000
Poquoson Public Works	757-868-3590	757-868-3501
Portsmouth Public Utilities	757-393-8524	757-393-8561
Suffolk Public Utilities	757-514-7000	757-514-7034
Town of Smithfield	757-365-4272	757-357-2151
Virginia Beach Public Utilities	757-385-1400	757-385-3111
Williamsburg Public Works	757-220-6140	757-220-6196
York Environmental & Development Services	757-890-3773	757-890-3773

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