

WEST HILLS AREA WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

257 LINDE ROAD
KITTANNING, PENNSYLVANIA 16201-4719
PHONE: (724) 545-9126
FAX: (724) 545-9305

DOCUMENT OF CERTIFICATION – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of the required inspection?

The purpose of this inspection is to identify sources of extraneous water entering the sewer system so that they can be removed. Extraneous water can enter the sewer system via an illegal connection such as downspouts, sump pumps or outside area drains, failed/broken sewers, or a sewer which was not installed according to Authority specifications.

Due to high sewage flows in the sewer system during times of heavy rainfall, member municipalities of the Authority have passed ordinances requiring the inspection of all properties prior to property transfer.

Do I need to be present at the inspection?

Yes, someone must be present to allow Authority personnel access to the basement/lower level of the building.

What can be expected at the inspection?

Authority personnel will visit the property to inspect the sewer connecting the building to the public sewer system. The inspection will include any number of the following: video inspection, dye testing and smoke testing. Particular attention will be given to potential sources of rainwater/groundwater that may enter the system. Such sources include but are not limited to; downspouts, sump pumps, area drains, French drains, failed or broken sewers and improper construction materials.

What if illegal/improper conditions are observed?

As required by municipal ordinances, any illegal/improper connections identified must be corrected before issuance of a Document of Certification prior to property transfer. Please note: corrections made such as the removal of downspouts, disconnection of sump pumps, area drains, etc. must include the disconnection of the carrying pipe or pipes connecting the improper facility/fixture at the point where it is connected to the service sewer. All corrections requiring excavation must be viewed by Authority personnel prior to backfill.

After all corrections have been made and observed by the Authority, a Document of Certification will be issued in accordance with your municipality's ordinance.

What if correction(s) cannot be made prior to my scheduled closing date?

By municipal ordinance, a Document of Certification must be obtained prior to property transfer. When the necessary work to remove the illegal/improper connection would require a length of time such as to create a hardship for the seller or applicant, or the inspection cannot be completed due to weather conditions, the seller or applicant may apply to the Authority for a Temporary Document of Certification. The Authority may be contacted regarding the requirements to obtain a Temporary Document of Certification.