

Newberry County Water & Sewer Authority

Sewer Use Ordinance

Adopted By Resolution January 19, 2017

Newberry County Water & Sewer Authority 13903 CR Koon Highway Newberry, SC 29108

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SEWER USE ORDINANCE

ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION JANUARY 19, 2017

SECTION 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1 Purpose and Policy

NCWSA is charged with protecting waters of the State. Additionally, NCWSA has a duty to provide its customers with quality wastewater collection, treatment and disposal services at reasonable costs.

This Ordinance sets forth NCWSA's policies and requirements concerning connection to, use and maintenance of the wastewater system. This is intended to provide NCWSA customers reasonable service while protecting public health and safety.

1.2 Administration

Except as otherwise provided herein, the Manager shall administer, implement, and enforce the provisions of this ordinance. Any powers granted to or duties imposed upon the Manager may be delegated by the Manager to a duly authorized NCWSA employee.

1.3 Application of ordinance.

This ordinance shall apply to persons who are users of the NCWSA wastewater facilities. NCWSA shall implement and enforce the provisions of this ordinance and the governing body of NCWSA shall adopt such regulations as it deems necessary to implement the provisions and requirements of this ordinance

Any satellite systems (i.e., Town of Prosperity) shall require their customers to comply with the requirements of this Ordinance.

1.4 Use of system constitutes acceptance.

The use of the wastewater treatment facilities of NCWSA by any user shall constitute the user's consent to an agreement to comply with and abide by the terms and conditions of this ordinance and the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder, including enforcement and penalty provisions.

1.5 Abbreviations

The following abbreviations, when used in this ordinance, shall have the designated meanings:

ANSI American National Standards Institute
ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers
ASTM American Society for Testing Materials

BOD Biochemical Oxygen Demand CFR Code of Federal Regulations

DHEC South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

mg/l milligrams per liter

NCWSA Newberry County Water & Sewer Authority NPDES National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

POTW Publicly Owned Treatment Works

1.6 Definitions

The following words or phrases, when used in this ordinance, shall have the designated meanings:

Connection charge. There shall be a service connection charge for connections of sewer service as set out in the fee schedule and the service regulations of NCWSA on file in the office of NCWSA.

Service agreement. NCWSA shall furnish agreements for any service rendered by NCWSA to its consumers.

Contract between NCWSA and consumer. The service agreement, when signed by the consumer and by an authorized representative of NCWSA, shall become a contract under which NCWSA agrees to furnish utility services to the consumer, and the consumer agrees to receive and pay for the service in accordance with the rate schedule and the service regulations of NCWSA on file in the office of NCWSA, and as the same may be modified from time to time, which rate schedules and service regulations are hereby made a part of the contract as effectually as if fully set forth therein. The service agreement may be terminated in accordance with the terms thereof and the Termination of Service subsection of this ordinance.

Payment responsibility. The consumer agrees to be responsible for receipt and payment of bills for these services. Failure to receive a monthly bill does not relieve the consumer of payment responsibility. If a bill is not received, the consumer shall notify NCWSA before the past due date. It is further agreed that should the consumer transfer to another address, other than the one on the original service agreement, the agreement shall be effective at the new address if the consumer receives services from NCWSA unless a new service agreement is executed. It is further understood that should the deposit be determined insufficient, the consumer will make an additional deposit upon request from NCWSA not to exceed the two highest months' utility bills.

Termination of service. The agreement shall continue indefinitely; unless otherwise provided, the same shall continue from month to month thereafter. The same may be terminated by either party (after expiration of any fixed period if initially specified), upon one working day notice to the other. It is further agreed that NCWSA reserves the right to discontinue services if the consumer breaches the service agreement. If the service is disconnected for cause, the consumer agrees to pay all outstanding bills and an applicable reconnection fee for service to be restored. The consumer understands that the information furnished on the application will be verified and, if determined inaccurate, will result in the termination of service without prior notice. The applicant understands that NCWSA must take action and expend funds to comply with the request for service. By signing the agreement, the consumer signifies that he or she has the authority to request utility

service at the location identified on the application, and attests that the information given on the contract is true and accurate.

- 1.7 Sewer connections required.
- (a) Any person owning a building, whether commercial or residential, within the NCWSA service area, shall install sewer connections or taps within 90 days after the property owned by such person becomes accessible to the NCWSA sewer lines, and all outdoor privies on such premises shall be removed by the owners thereof after the connection with the water and sewer lines.
- (b) Where any property owner has previously installed a private septic tank according to specifications, he may continue to use the septic tank upon approval of NCWSA. However, if any such septic tank fails to meet the requirements of DHEC or the local health department, the septic tank shall be condemned, and no repairs thereof shall be permitted if a sewer line is available for connection thereto, and the owner shall be required to connect to the sewer line within 90 days.
- 1.8 Application to tap sewer lines.

Every application to tap the sewer main lines shall be made by the owner of the property to be benefited or by his authorized agent, on a form prescribed by NCWSA. Applications shall be granted only upon the condition that the owner of the property, in his application, will agree to pay in advance the standard fees for sewer service, and upon failure to so pay, such premises may be disconnected from such sewer lines.

- 1.9 Illegal use of sewer service.
- (a) Should any person use NCWSA sewer service without the knowledge and consent of NCWSA, and it shall come to the knowledge of NCWSA that the services have been so illegally used, a bill shall be made against such consumer for the services used. If, upon presentation of the bill, the consumer refuses to pay for the sewer service so illegally used, then it shall be the duty of NCWSA to cut off or have cut off the water or sewer service, or both, from the premises, and prefer charges against such illegal use of the service, before the local magistrate. Such person, upon conviction, shall be punished as provided by law and shall be liable for the payment of such bill against him for the sewer service so used, by any process or procedure that may be applicable and adequate for the enforcement of the payment of the bill; and, further, such sewer service connection shall be cut off and discontinued until such bill for such sewer service is paid in full, with all costs incident thereto.
- (b) No person by the use of a false key, or otherwise, shall turn the water or sewer service back on after services have been cut off from the premises except under orders from NCWSA.
- 1.10 Right of NCWSA to turn off water; liability for water supply.

NCWSA or its proper agents may stop the supply of water or sewer service in case of emergency and shut it off for repairs or system extension, NCWSA being the sole judge of the time and the necessity therefore, reasonable notice being given when practicable. NCWSA shall not be liable for any insufficient supply of water or sewer service at any time.

1.11 Free service prohibited.

No service of any sort, water or sewer, shall be rendered free of charge to any person.

1.12 Individual contracts for certain users permitted under certain conditions.

Individual contracts may be made with large consumers of sewer service, with such rates and charges as shall be mutually agreed upon; provided, however, that no preferential rates shall be given to users of the same class.

1.13 Meters required; exceptions.

All water service shall be furnished upon a metered basis. Charges for sewer service shall be based on water meter readings or a separate wastewater meter installed in in accordance with NCWSA requirements.

1.14 Monthly bills.

All meters shall be read and bills rendered monthly, and all bills shall be due and payable monthly at the office of NCWSA, during the regular hours of business.

1.15 Liability of landlords and agents.

Landlords and agents controlling and renting property for domestic use or rooms for lodging purposes or offices shall be liable for water consumption and sewer service charges, and shall in every case give NCWSA written notice of the removal of the tenant or the discontinued use of water or sewer service, and shall continue to be so liable until such notice is given of the discontinuance of the water consumption and sewer service as much as is actually used.

SECTION 2 – USE OF PUBLIC SEWERS

2.1 Permits required.

- (a) Prior to connection to the wastewater disposal system, the applicant shall obtain approval from NCWSA. Application shall be made in writing on forms provided by NCWSA.
- (b) All new industries discharging industrial wastewater shall complete the application and obtain approval to connect and use the sewer facilities, regardless of the amount of discharge. All industrial users shall comply with applicable provisions of this ordinance and NCWSA's Industrial Pretreatment Ordinance (Resolution 2014-005).

2.2 Responsibility for costs.

All costs and expense incident to the installation and connection of building sewers shall be borne by the owner.

2.3 Discontinuance of sewer service for non-payment.

NCWSA shall have the right to discontinue sewer service to the property of a user of such service in the event of non-payment of sewer charges. NCWSA or its agents shall have the right to discontinue water service to the premises in the event of nonpayment of sewer service charges and also shall have a right of entry in and upon the premises and the right of ingress and egress to determine location of the service line, to uncover it and to dig it up for the purpose of digging up, sealing or plugging the service line

2.4 Use of public sewers required.

It shall be unlawful for any person to place, deposit, or permit to be deposited in any unsanitary manner on public or private property in areas under the jurisdiction of NCWSA any human or animal excrement, garbage, or objectionable waste. It shall be unlawful to discharge to any natural outlet in areas under the jurisdiction of NCWSA any wastewater, except where suitable treatment has been provided in accordance with subsequent provisions of this ordinance and with regulations of DHEC. Except as hereinafter provided, it shall be unlawful to construct or maintain any privy, privy vault, septic tanks, cesspool, or other facility intended or used for the disposal of wastewater. The owner of any house, building or property used for human occupancy, employment, recreation, or other purposes, abutting on any street, alley, or right-of-way in which there is a public sanitary sewer, or within 300 feet of a public sewer, at the expense of the owner shall install suitable toilet facilities and shall connect such facilities directly with the public sewer, within 90 days after date of official notice to do so. Under unusual or specific circumstances, NCWSA may waive this provision. No cesspool or septic tank effluent or overflow shall be discharged in any open drain, ditch, stream, or any well-penetrating water bearing formation.

2.5 Sewer material.

All sewers, including building sewers, to be connected with or to discharge to the wastewater disposal system shall be constructed of one of the following:

- (1) Vitrified clay pipe complying with ASTM C200 and with compression type, flexible joint conforming to ASTM C425.
- (2) Ductile iron pipe with a mechanical or push-on joint as described in ANSI A21.11.
- (3) ABS (acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene) pipe and fittings conforming to ASTM D2661.
- (4) PVC (polyvinyl chloride) pipe and fittings conforming to minimum requirements of ASTM D3034, heavy wall, joint quality to conform with ASTM C425.
- (5) Other materials specifically approved in writing by NCWSA.

2.6 Certain connections prohibited.

(a) Connections not allowed to sewer. No person shall make any connection of roof downspouts, exterior foundation drains, area drains, or other sources of inflow, infiltration, or other unpolluted waters to a building sewer or building drain which in turn is connected, directly or indirectly, to a sanitary sewer.

(b) Connections not allowed to storm sewers. The discharge of sanitary wastewater into the ground surface, a storm sewer or drainage ditch is prohibited.

2.7 Multiple connections through one-building sewer.

A separate and independent building sewer shall be provided for every building; except where one building stands at the rear of another on an interior lot and no sanitary sewer is available nor can be constructed to the rear building through an adjoining alley, court, yard or driveway. The building sewer from the front building may be extended to the rear building and the whole considered as one building sewer.

2.8 Use of old building sewers.

Old building sewers may be used in connection with new buildings only when they are found, upon examination and testing by NCWSA, to meet all requirements of this ordinance.

2.9 Compliance with other regulations.

The size, slope, alignment, materials of construction, excavating methods, pipe placement, jointing, testing and backfilling shall all conform to the building code, plumbing code and all other regulations of NCWSA. In cases of conflict and in absence of other provisions, materials and procedures set forth in ASCE-WPCF Manual of Practice No. 9 shall govern. All joints of the building sewer shall be tight and waterproof. One of two tests may be used. Infiltration shall not exceed 200 gallons/mile/inch/diameter/day, or the building sewer shall pass a low pressure air test as specified in ASTM C828. NCWSA reserves the right to determine which testing procedure shall be used for a given installation.

2.10 Connection of building sewer to public sewer.

Whenever possible, the building sewer shall be brought to the building at an elevation below the basement floor. In all buildings in which any building drain is too low to permit gravity flow to the public sewer, wastewater carried by such building drain shall be lifted by a means approved by NCWSA and discharged to the building sewer. The connection of the building sewer into the public sewer shall conform to requirements of applicable building and plumbing codes and other applicable rules and regulations of NCWSA. All such connections shall be made gastight and watertight. Any connection to a public sewer shall be made at an existing manhole where possible. Any deviation from the prescribed procedures and materials must be approved by NCWSA before installation.

2.11 Supervision of building sewer construction.

The applicant for the building sewer permit shall notify NCWSA when the building sewer is ready for inspection and connection to the public sewer. The connection shall be made under the supervision of NCWSA. All excavations for building sewer installation shall be adequately guarded with barricades and lights so as to protect the public from hazard. Streets, sidewalks, parkways and other public property disturbed in the course of the work shall be restored in a manner satisfactory to NCWSA.

Construction shall comply with the provisions of PL 91-596, the Occupational Health and Safety Act of 1970.

2.12 Special interceptors.

Grease, oil, and sand interceptor sewers shall be provided when, in the opinion of NCWSA, they are necessary for the proper handling of liquid wastes containing floatable oil in excessive amounts, sand, or other harmful ingredients; except that such interceptors shall not be required for private living quarters or dwelling units. All interceptors shall be of a type and capacity approved by NCWSA and shall be located as to be readily and easily accessible for cleaning and inspection. Where installed, all grease, oil and sand interceptors shall be maintained by the owner at his expense in continuously efficient operation at all times. In the maintaining of these interceptors, the owner shall be responsible for the proper removal and disposal of the captured material and shall maintain records of the dates and means of disposal which are subject to review by NCWSA or the State. Any removal and hauling of collected materials shall be performed according to applicable state, federal, and local regulations. All food service establishments must comply with the fats, oil, and grease control requirements contained in NCWSA's Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) Control Ordinance.

2.13 General guidance.

NCWSA approval of plans and specifications for expansion or modification to treatment works shall be generally based on the recommended standards for sewage works (commonly referred to as "Ten States Standards"), and these standards are recommended for use by any entity developing facilities for connection to the wastewater disposal system.

Construction of additions or extensions of water or sewer facilities which will connect to the NCWSA system shall be in accordance with NCWSA's standard specifications.

2.14 Connection constitutes consent.

Connection to the NCWSA's system by a user shall constitute consent and agreement by the user to be bound by and to abide with all of NCWSA's rules and regulations.

2.15 Vandalism.

No person shall maliciously, willfully, or negligently break damage, destroy, uncover, deface, tamper with or prevent access to any structure, appurtenance or equipment, or other part of the POTW. Any person found in violation of this requirement shall be subject to the sanctions set out in the South Carolina Code of Laws.

SECTION 3 - PRIVATE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL

3.1 Responsibility for construction and operation.

Where a public sanitary sewer is not available according to the provisions of this ordinance, building sewers shall be connected to private wastewater disposal systems subject to the requirements of DHEC. Where the owner desires NCWSA to assume responsibility for the operation and maintenance of new treatment works, trunk lines or lift stations, all such facilities shall be designed and constructed in accordance with NCWSA's requirements and shall be subject to NCWSA review and approval and be in compliance with any applicable DHEC requirements. NCWSA, subject to its policies, may assume responsibility for the operation and maintenance costs of treatment systems and lift stations upon such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate.

3.2 Requirements of other authorities.

No requirements contained in this section shall be construed to relieve the applicant of any additional requirements that may be imposed by other authorities having legal jurisdiction.

SECTION 4 - PROHIBITIONS AND LIMITATIONS ON WASTEWATER DISCHARGES

- 4.1 Prohibited discharges.
- (a) General Prohibitions. No User shall introduce or cause to be introduced into the POTW any pollutant or wastewater which causes pass through or interference. These general prohibitions apply to all users of the POTW whether or not they are subject to categorical Pretreatment Standards or any other National, State, or local Pretreatment Standards or Requirements.
- (b) Specific Prohibitions. No User shall introduce or cause to be introduced into the POTW the following pollutants, substances, or wastewater:
 - (1) Pollutants which create a fire or explosive hazard in the POTW, including, but not limited to, wastestreams with a closed-cup flashpoint of less than 140 degrees F (60 degrees C) using the test methods specified in 40 CFR 261.21;
 - (2) Wastewater having a pH less than 6.0 or more than 9.0, or otherwise causing corrosive structural damage to the POTW or equipment;
 - (3) Solid or viscous substances in amounts which will cause obstruction of the flow in the POTW resulting in Interference but in no case solids greater than 3 inches by 3 inches;
 - (4) Pollutants, including oxygen-demanding pollutants (BOD, etc.), released in a discharge at a flow rate and/or pollutant concentration which, either singly or by interaction with other pollutants, will cause Interference with the POTW;
 - (5) Wastewater having a temperature greater than 120 degrees F (49 degrees C), or which will inhibit biological activity in the treatment plant resulting in Interference, but in no case wastewater which causes the temperature at the introduction into the treatment plant to exceed 104 degrees F (40 degrees C);
 - (6) Petroleum oil, nonbiodegradable cutting oil, or products of mineral oil origin, in amounts that will cause Interference or Pass Through;

- (7) Pollutants which result in the presence of toxic gases, vapors, or fumes within the POTW in a quantity that may cause acute worker health and safety problems;
- (8) Trucked or hauled pollutants, except at discharge points designated by NCWSA;
- (9) Noxious or malodorous liquids, gases, solids, or other wastewater which, either singly or by interaction with other wastes, are sufficient to create a public nuisance or a hazard to life, or to prevent entry into the sewers for maintenance or repair;
- (10) Wastewater which imparts color which cannot be removed by the treatment process, such as, but not limited to, dye wastes and vegetable tanning solutions, which consequently imparts color to the treatment plant's effluent, thereby violating NCWSA's NPDES permit;
- (11) Wastewater containing any radioactive wastes or isotopes except in compliance with applicable State or Federal regulations;
- (12) Storm Water, surface water, ground water, artesian well water, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, swimming pool drainage, condensate, deionized water, Noncontact Cooling Water, and unpolluted wastewater, unless specifically authorized by NCWSA.
- (13) Sludges, screenings, or other residues from the pretreatment of industrial wastes;
- (14) Medical Wastes, except as specifically authorized by NCWSA in an individual wastewater discharge permit;
- (15) Wastewater causing, alone or in conjunction with other sources, the treatment plant's effluent to fail toxicity test;
- (16) Detergents, surface-active agents, or other substances which that might cause excessive foaming in the POTW;
- (17) Fats, oils, or greases of animal or vegetable origin in concentrations greater than 100 mg/l;
- (18) Wastewater causing two readings on an explosion hazard meter at the point of discharge into the POTW, or at any point in the POTW, of more than five percent or any single reading over ten percent of the Lower Explosive Limit of the meter.

Pollutants, substances, or wastewater prohibited by this Section shall not be processed or stored in such a manner that they could be discharged to the POTW.

4.2 Conditionally prohibited discharges.

Certain discharges may be prohibited in the event NCWSA determines it necessary to protect the POTW, receiving stream, or that the discharge will endanger lives, limbs, public property, or constitute a nuisance. NCWSA may revise the limitations established in this section if, in its opinion, different limitations are necessary to meet the above objectives. Wastewater as described below shall not be discharged to the POTW without the prior written approval of NCWSA.

(a) Grease and oils:

- (1) Wastewater containing more than 100 mg/l of fats, oils, or greases of animal or vegetable origin.
- (2) Wastewater containing substances which may solidify or become viscous at a temperature between 32 and 140 degrees Fahrenheit.
- (b) Any radioactive wastes or isotopes of such half-life or concentration as may exceed limits established by NCWSA in compliance with applicable state or federal regulations.
- (c) Wastewater containing substances which are not amenable to treatment or reduction by the wastewater treatment processes employed.
- (d) Holding tank waste.
- (e) Wastewater with a pH less than 6.0 units or greater than 9.0 units.
- 4.3 National Categorical Pretreatment Standards or local limitations.

Industrial users shall comply with requirements of NCWSA's Industrial Pretreatment Ordinance.

4.4 Recovery of preventive expenses.

When any discharge in the opinion of NCWSA appears to be in violation of this Section 4, Prohibitions and Limitations on Wastewater Discharges, to the extent that the discharge may cause an interference with, or have an adverse impact upon, the operation of facilities, NCWSA may act to take preventative action. All costs and expenses, losses and damages, including the reasonable value or cost of the use of NCWSA personnel and equipment caused or incurred by the implementation of preventative measures shall be charged to and paid by the discharger.

4.5 Hauled wastewater.

Hauled wastewater discharged to any of NCWSA's facilities without prior written permission from NCWSA is prohibited.

4.6 Garbage grinder.

No commercial, institutional or industrial garbage grinder shall be installed or any discharge made from such grinder unless written permission has been granted by NCWSA.

SECTION 5 - REVENUE SYSTEM

5.1 Fees and charges.

Fees shall be assessed to users for discharges to the POTW and for executing or enforcing the provisions of this ordinance. These charges shall be developed, set and adopted by NCWSA no less frequently than biennially in accordance with the user charge system policies of NCWSA and applicable federal and state statutes. Charges may be developed for the following purposes:

- (a) Recovering capital related expenditures or retiring bonded indebtedness;
- (b) Other charges including user charges based on billable flow and discharges to the POTW, necessary to recover the operation and maintenance costs of the wastewater disposal system.
- (c) Availability, impact, and connection fees or similar fees to recover, or to provide for, capital costs expended for the system and/or its expansion.

Current fees and charges of NCWSA are shown upon the rate schedule and the service regulations of NCWSA on file in the office of NCWSA. Future charges and fees as are set and developed by NCWSA will be published by NCWSA and when adopted by NCWSA be automatically incorporated into the rate schedule and the service regulations of NCWSA on file in the office of NCWSA.

- 5.2 Commercial and Residential utility deposits.
- (a) NCWSA may require a deposit to establish service.

SECTION 6 - RESERVED

SECTION 7. - REPAIR OF SEWER CONNECTIONS AND SERVICE LATERALS

- 7.1 Purpose of division; responsibilities of property owners.
- (a) Where private sewer lines and service laterals are improperly connected to public sewer lines or where private sewer lines were installed improperly or have deteriorated and now cause a problem to exist with inflow and infiltration that was not caused by NCWSA, then it is the responsibility of the property owner to correct any such problems or improper cross connections of surface water drainage systems as set forth in this section. If the property owner fails to correct the deficiency in a timely manner then NCWSA may enter the property and repair the line and charge the property owner for the full expense of such repair.
- (b) This section is enacted in the public interest to protect the public health and welfare to eliminate pollution, avoid contamination of groundwater, and eliminate health and environmental hazards, and to comply with state and federal law and regulations.
- 7.2 Prohibited connections; correction of violations.
- (a) It shall be unlawful for any property owner, directly or indirectly, to discharge any water or other substance other than approved wastewater which is generated on the premises of the owner into the sanitary sewer system.

- (b) It shall be unlawful for an owner or person in possession of private property to connect or allow connection of a storm drainage system, swimming pool, fountain or other facility not requiring treatment of the discharge into a sanitary sewer line.
- (c) Any existing violations, including improper, illegal and defective connections to the sewer collector line, must be corrected within 90 days following written notice from NCWSA of such violation. Extensions may be granted only to allow completion of work begun or contracted for prior to expiration of the 90-day notice. In emergency situations with immediate danger to the public health, this notice period may be reduced to 48 hours. Failure to abate and correct a violation prior to the end of any notice period shall be unlawful and shall constitute a violation of this ordinance.

7.3 Capping of lateral upon demolition of structure.

Upon demolition of a structure, the sewer lateral shall be capped as near as practical to the property line, or at the collector line if this line runs through the property as determined by NCWSA's inspector and in accordance with the wastewater regulations of NCWSA standard specifications and design requirements. This work shall be inspected by a designated representative of NCWSA.

7.4 Payment of costs; standards for work.

The installation cost or repair cost of the connection to the sewer collection line or to the service lateral shall be at the expense of the property owner, and such repairs or corrections shall be made in such a manner to ensure that the connection or lateral shall not pollute the site, contaminate groundwater, or permit infiltration or inflow into NCWSA's sewer collector system, and must comply with the plumbing code adopted by NCWSA.

7.5 Termination of sewer service; penalty.

Failure of the owner to act within the time specified after a notice to take corrective action has been issued under this section shall be immediate grounds for termination of sewer service.

7.6 Additional remedies.

The regulations in this section are in addition to existing laws, ordinances and regulations. Nothing in this section shall prevent NCWSA from taking at the same time, or some later time, any other remedy provided by law

SECTION 8 – EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately following its passage, approval, and publication, as provided by law.