

January 8, 2021

Hello Montgomery County Council Members,

Thank you for taking the time to hear our case and your service to our beloved county particularly in these challenging times. I am a life-long resident of the county and my dad was a librarian for Montgomery County Public Schools for many years before he passed away several years ago. As you may know we are applying for a sewer category change from S-6 to S-3 (application #CR 20-TRV-05A) and simply asking for a single hook up to our existing home. We want to be able to use our adjacent property for safe parking and to expand our home for making living arrangements for our elderly, ailing parents. Taking care of our parents has become particularly important during this COVID pandemic and . However, our current septic field will not allow either adequate expansion/construction of a dwelling unit or adequate safe parking. In fact, currently, guests are forced to park on our septic field as it is dangerous to park on Boswell Lane. Over time our septic field is starting to fail and according to Kim Beall in DEP, "... it is always recommended that you avoid parking vehicles on the area where existing septic trenches (drainfields) are installed" as it can lead to damage of the septic drainfields.

In our discussions with DEP, WSSC and Park & Planning all of them see no issue or problems for us to connect to the pressure sewer main near the front of our house especially since it has minimal to no environmental impact. We are the last property on Boswell Lane that can use this sewer main, it terminates with us thereby **not** allowing any further expansion or building beyond our property.

We requested sewer category change several years back (request # WSCCR 11A-TRV-08), while we were rejected for one hookup, Mitchell Rales was approved for the Glendstone Foundation for several hookups even though he did not abut a sewer main. There have been several other occasions that builders got approval on Boswell Lane, e.g. RAM Investing, and Potomac Preserve at Boswell and Piney Meetinghouse both with non-abutting sewer mains. This seems EXTREMELY unfair. Given our denial previously we turned to our county's DEP department for guidance.

DEP suggested I ask other neighbors to consider applying as a group because it is better to be considered as an "area" asking for approval rather than an "individual". I reached out to several neighbors but only three were somewhat interested and so they applied this cycle also. Once we received agency feedback from WSSC for my application stating *"There is an existing 1.5 inch low pressure sewer in Boswell Ln. (contract 200704595Z) that requires a public extension in order to abut this lot. The extension for the 1.5 inch low pressure sewer for 10401 Boswell Ln. to connect appears to be able to take the additional flow from this lot."* I again reached out to DEP for guidance to understand and interpret this feedback. On around 12/2/2019 I spoke with George Dizelos of DEP who suggested I reach out to my neighbor at 10400 Boswell lane and get proof in an email or letter that they would extend the sewer main if their application was approved and then I could probably be administratively approved for a category change since my property would abut. So I did so (see email) and even though we are just neighbors, and

they do not know much about engineering and design of sewage systems, they obliged. Then I forwarded that email to DEP all the while keeping my neighbors interests in mind as well.

However, our neighbors are now upset because there appears to be some sort of restrictions on their application when they were told they would be administratively approved (see announcement letter) and now they are not because of me. So, I then followed up with the director of DEP, Adam Ortiz, on 12/22/2020 and he said there will be no restrictions on our neighbors application. I am confused as are our neighbors. This doesn't seem fair, we pay taxes like all other citizens of this county, the laws and regulations should be applied fairly to ALL citizens not just the builders with legal counsel or select few citizens.

To keep peace with our neighbors and the fact that I feel a sense of obligation to help them resolve this matter, I reached out to Ms. Hala Flores, program manager in the Development Services Division at WSSC. Who confirmed that a standard connection as shown in the diagrams attached in her email (see highlighted portion of email from Ms. Flores of WSSC), is the best way to connect existing abutting properties due to less likelihood of clogging and better structural integrity of the joint, that's why all other properties on Boswell were done as close to standard connection as possible. This connection needs to be designed properly and left to the decision of an engineer and WSSC.

Based on WSSC documentation and previous connections in abutting main cases, it is clear the connection to our neighbor at 10400 Boswell needs to be done properly and at a standard connection which will require a small extension. After which, we (at 10401 Boswell) will abut and can connect under the abutting mains policy. The sewer line terminates with our home, so no further extension WILL EVER happen (as confirmed by DEP staff and leadership Mr. Adam Ortiz) and no other homes beyond our property could be served by this main which follows the intent of the Water and Sewer Plans for our area. Also, it will allow us, law-abiding lifetime taxpayers of the county, to expand our home to take care of elderly and aging parents and provide safer parking for our guests which has caused our septic field to start failing and will eventually fail faster. I ask the county council to please approve my application because it makes the most sense and still follows the intent of the master plan to prevent sprawling development.

Sincerely,

Ravinder Kapoor

Re: Sewer connection

From: Janak Arora (

) To: ravinderkapoor@yahoo.com

Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 11:41 AM EST

Yes if our sewer category change is approved,our plan is to extend the sewer main approximately 125 feet along Boswell lane.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 3, 2019, at 10:34 AM, Ravinder Kapoor <ravinderkapoor@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi Mr. and Mrs. Arora,

I am your neighbor at 10401 Boswell. As you may know, we are both applying for a sewer category change. In regards, to your sewer category change application (20-TRV-03A) are you planning on extending the sewer main along Boswell Lane if your category change is approved? I am inquiring so that we may plan accordingly. Thank you very much and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Ravinder Kapoor



R Kapoor <rkapoorphd@gmail.com>

Standard Connection Requirement

R Kapoor <r>
Draft To: "Flores, Hala"
<Hala.Flores@wsscwater.com>
Thank you!

Mon, Jan 11, 2021 at 12:48 PM

On Mon, Jan 11, 2021 at 10:55 AM Flores, Hala <Hala.Flores@wsscwater.com> wrote:

Hello,

I'm not sure of the reasons behind the 90 degree requirement, but clogging is certainly one of those reasons ... Also the structural integrity of the joint and the type of fittings that are acceptable for use may play a role.



HALA FLORES, P.E.
Project Manager

Development Services Division

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hala.flores@wsscwater.com

From: R Kapoor <>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 10:49 AM
To: Flores, Hala <Hala.Flores@wsscwater.com>
Subject: Re: Standard Connection Requirement

EXTERNAL EMAIL!

Hello Ms. Flores,

Thank you very much for the information, I know you are very busy so I really appreciate it. My take away from our discussion this morning is that a 90-degree connection to a sewer main as shown in the diagram you sent is required in order to help prevent clogging of any kind. Is that correct?

Sincerely,

Ravi Kapoor

ph

On Mon, Jan 11, 2021 at 9:22 AM Flores, Hala <Hala.Flores@wsscwater.com> wrote:

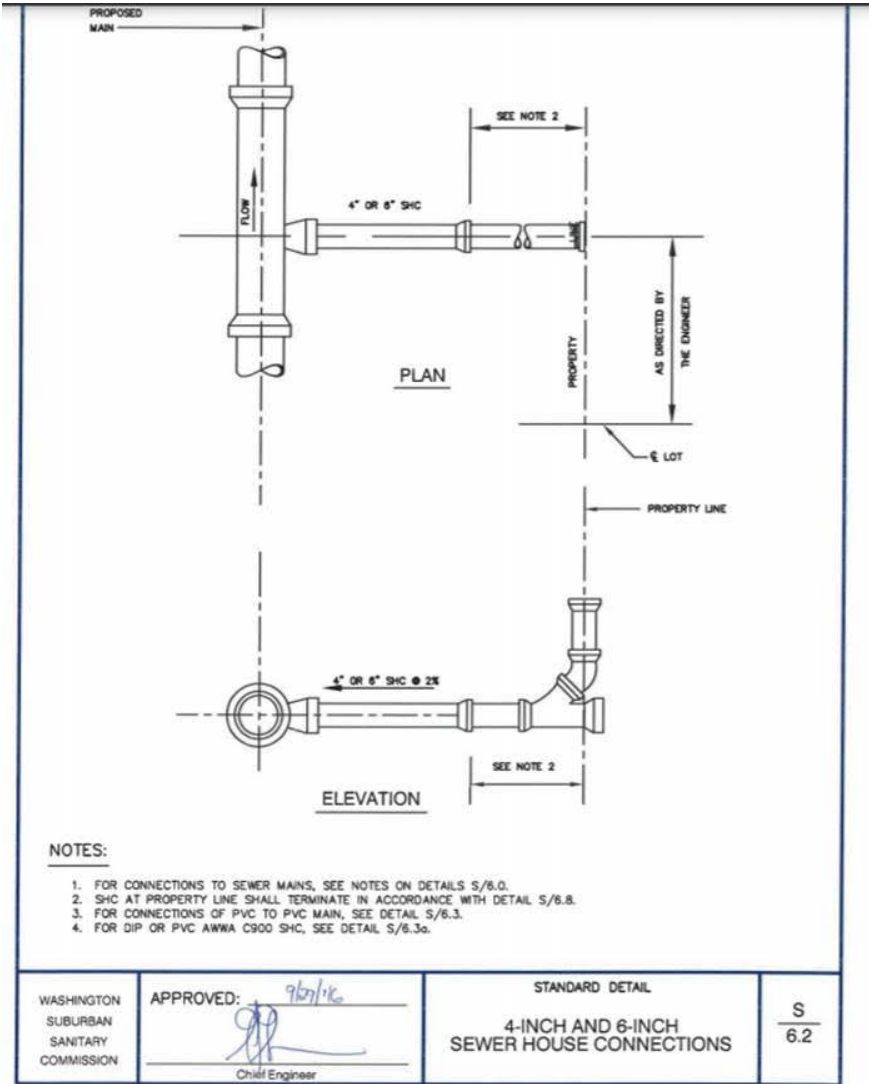
Hello,

This is an extensive topic and is described in various codes ([development services code](#), [pipeline design manual](#), [plumbing and fuel gas code](#), [standard details and specifications](#)). The codes are all available online and I included a link. I'm including below just few excerpts from the codes, there are many additional references covering the sewer service connection requirements. If you have additional questions on our standards, please correspond directly to Haile.Yerdaw@wsscwater.com, the manager for the civil engineering support section.

PDM Part 2, section 27. Sewer Service connections

d. Connection of the SHC to the Mainline Sewer.

- 1) SHCs can be installed using a tee or saddle on mainline sewers 15-inch diameter and smaller. See Connection Notes on Standard Detail S/6.0.



NOTES:

1. FOR CONNECTIONS TO SEWER MAINS, SEE NOTES ON DETAILS S/6.0.
2. SHC AT PROPERTY LINE SHALL TERMINATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH DETAIL S/6.8.
3. FOR CONNECTIONS OF PVC TO PVC MAIN, SEE DETAIL S/6.3.
4. FOR DIP OR PVC AWWA C900 SHC, SEE DETAIL S/6.3a.

WASHINGTON
SUBURBAN
SANITARY
COMMISSION

APPROVED:

9/27/16

Chief Engineer

STANDARD DETAIL
4-INCH AND 6-INCH
SEWER HOUSE CONNECTIONS

S
6.2

S62

CONNECTION TO SEWER MAIN NOTES:

1. FOR SEWERS LARGER THAN 15" CONNECT TO A MANHOLE.
2. TO PROPOSED SEWERS 15" AND SMALLER, USE A TEE.
3. TO EXISTING PVC 4" THRU 15" PVC SEWERS MAINS, USE SADDLE.
4. TO EXISTING DIP 12" AND SMALLER SEWER MAINS, USE SADDLE.
5. TO EXISTING SEWER MAINS OTHER THAN PVC OR DIP:
(A). SHC TO 4" SEWER MAINS USE TEE OR SADDLE.
(B). SHC 6" THRU 12" SEWER MAINS USE SADDLE.
(C). SHC TO 15" SEWER MAINS USE THIMBLE AND EPOXY TO MAIN LINE.

WASHINGTON
SUBURBAN
SANITARY
COMMISSION

APPROVED:

9/27/16

Chief Engineer

STANDARD DETAIL
4-INCH AND 6-INCH DROP
HOUSE CONNECTIONS
TO SEWER MAIN

S
6.0

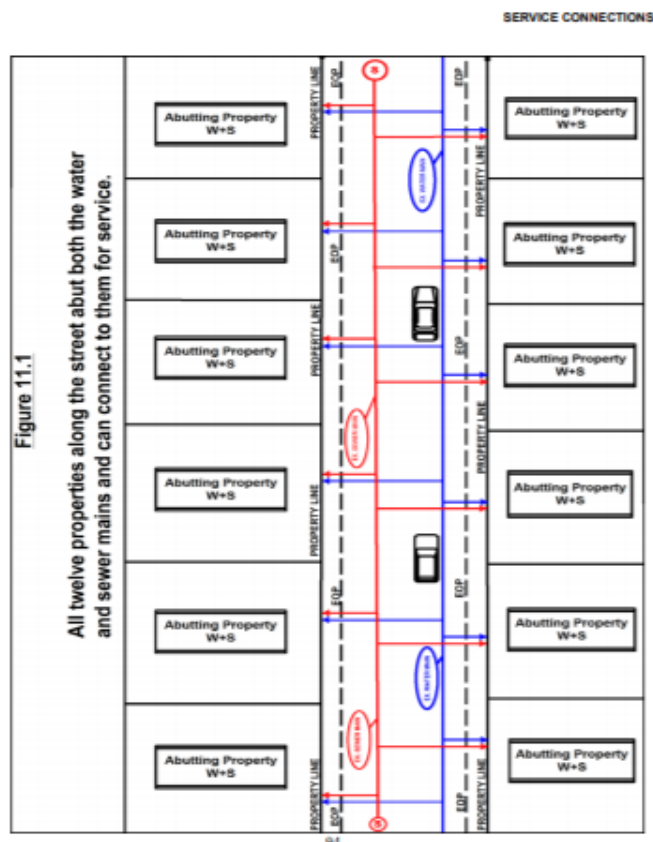
Plumbing and fuel gas code

111.1.6 Existing Sewer Connection. New buildings utilizing a previously un-used existing **sewer service connection**, and existing buildings having the building sewer **replaced**, shall be **required** to have a **property line cleanout** installed within 1-foot of the property line, or at the edge of the right-of-way in the case of right-of-way connections, **if** such a cleanout does not already exist. The base connection shall be a combination wye and one-eighth bend lying on its back. The cleanout cover assembly shall conform with WSSC Standard Detail S-5.1 or S-5.2.

d. Bends and Wyes on Mainline Sewers for Drop Manhole Connections.

- 1) For fittings and requirements for 8-inch through 12-inch sewer drop connections, see Standard Details S/3.1 and S/3.1a, and for 8-inch inside drop connections, see Standard Details S/3.1b and S/3.1c.
- 2) SHC(s) with a diameter of 6-inch or smaller shall be ended or terminated with a clean out or a manhole as applicable.

The development services code also have sketches for abutting connections as follows.



HALA FLORES, P.E.
Project Manager



Development Services Division

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hala.flores@wsscwater.com

From: R Kapoor <>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 8:58 AM
To: Flores, Hala <Hala.Flores@wsscwater.com>
Subject: Standard Connection Requirement

EXTERNAL EMAIL!

Hello Ms. Flores,

Thank you for returning my call this morning. At your earliest convenience, could you please send me the WSSC documentation describing the standard connection requirement to sewer mains? I would appreciate it. Have a great day.

Regards,
Ravi Kapoor

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