

ANNOUNCEMENT – ILLICIT STORM WATER CONNECTIONS

The Department of Public Works has been notified that the daily sewer flow limits to Rahway Valley Sewer Authority have been exceeded 91 times in on year. This spike in sewer flow generally occurs during rain events. Springfield maintains Sperate Sewer and Stormwater collection systems. On of the purposes of the separate systems is to avoid the expense of unnecessarily treating clean stormwater combined with sanitary sewer.

One of the contributing factors to stormwater inflow during rain events is from illicit connections. As illicit connection is when a sump pump, which designed to move groundwater out from a basement or crawl space, is connected illegally to the sanitary sewer line. Sump pump connections to the sanitary sewer system are prohibited by Rahway Valley Sewage Authority and are subject to enforcement and penalty enforcement.

The Department of Public Works is seeking the assistance of homeowners who are currently discharging groundwater into the sanitary sewer system to voluntarily remove any illicit connection. All residents of Springfield bear the tax burden of unnecessarily treating groundwater.

The Department of Public Works will begin conducting smoke tests to determine the location of any illicit connections. Smoke testing forces smoke into the air space in sanitary sewer lines. If there is an illicit connection present on that sewer line, smoke will be emitted into the air of the connection.