

**Town of Northbridge, Massachusetts**  
**Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Program**  
**Sewer Connection Policy (Revised 12/17/01)**

**Introduction:** On May 5, 2001, the Northbridge Board of Selectmen signed an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The DEP executed the ACO on May 15, 2001, which is the effective date of the order. The ACO requires the Town to address certain deficiencies in its sanitary sewer system. Included among these deficiencies are sources of inflow and infiltration (I&I) that allow large volumes of ground water to enter into the sanitary sewer system.

**Inflow and Infiltration:** The ACO requires the Town to implement plans to identify and eliminate sources of I&I. The ACO imposes restrictions on new discharges to the sewer system. Specifically, it requires the removal of 4 gallons of I&I for every 1 gallon of new flow added to the system. The lone exception is for existing residences “where the Northbridge Board of Health certifies to the DEP in writing that a connection is necessary to abate an imminent hazard to the public health”.

**Connection Policy for I&I Reduction:** Recognizing that there are many complexities associate with achieving the mandated I&I reductions, the Board of Selectmen has established the following two tiered policy for obtaining new connections to the Town’s sanitary sewer system.:

**Tier 1 - Small flow increases:** This category consists of new flows from existing or new structures totaling 5,000 gallons per day (gpd) or less. This includes individual connections or multiple connections from a proposed project where the combined new flow into the sanitary sewer meets this limit. Examples include a small residential subdivision of about ten units or less or a small commercial development with total new flow within the above limit. Under this category, applicants for new sewer service are required to make a monetary contribution to the I&I reduction fund or are required to identify and repair system deficiencies to achieve the required 4 to 1 I&I flow reduction.

**Tier 2 - Large flow increases:** This category consists of any new or existing commercial, industrial or residential development or facility with a combined new flow in excess of 5,000 gpd. Under this category, applicants for new sewer service are required to identify and repair system deficiencies to achieve the required 4 to 1 I&I flow reduction. These new applicants are not allowed to make a monetary contribution for I&I reduction.

The following chart depicts these requirements:

| <b>Category</b> | <b>Volume of New Flow (gpd)</b> | <b>I&amp;I Fee per gpd</b> | <b>I &amp; I Volume Reduction</b> |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Tier 1</b>   | 5,000 gpd or less               | \$2.00                     | 4 gal removed per 1 gal added     |
| <b>Tier 2</b>   | Greater than 5,000              | Not Allowed                | 4 gal removed per 1 gal added     |

The Volume of New Flow is based on 110 gallons per day per bedroom for residences and on current design standards for other types of facilities.

For Tier 1 residential projects, the I&I reduction contribution for small residential projects will be as follows:

| <b>Number of Bedrooms</b> | <b>I &amp; I Volume Reduction</b> | <b>I&amp;I Reduction Contribution</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 bedroom                 | 440 gpd                           | \$220                                 |
| 2 bedrooms                | 880 gpd                           | \$440                                 |
| 3 bedrooms                | 1320 gpd                          | \$660                                 |
| 4 bedrooms                | 1760 gpd                          | \$880                                 |
| 5 bedrooms                | 2200 gpd                          | \$1,100                               |

The above monetary I&I reduction contributions are in addition to the connection fees listed in current and future Schedules of Rates for Sewer Services issued by the Board of Selectmen.

The Board of Selectmen reserve the right to amend and revise this policy at any time when deemed in the best interest of the Town of Northbridge. Additionally, the Board of Selectmen may consider and may accept alternate proposals, which differ from the provisions of this policy, to the extent that they achieve full compliance with the I & I reduction requirements of the May 15, 2001 Administrative Consent Order, and are deemed by the Board of Selectmen to be in the long term best interest of the Town.

**Adopted by vote of the Northbridge Board of Selectmen on August 20, 2001. Amended by vote of the Northbridge Board of Selectmen on December 17, 2001**