	WATER AND SEWER SERVICE POLICIES	<i>EFFECTIVE DATE:</i> January 30, 2015
	<i>POLICY TITLE:</i> LOW PRESSURE FORCE MAIN AND GRINDER PUMP	<i>STARTING SECTION:</i> 41565
		<i>OWNER: Director of Operations & Maintenance</i>

Division IV Chapter 1

§ 41565 Low Pressure Force Main


The following policy outlines the Low Pressure Force Main and Grinder Pump Policy of Prince William County Service Authority (the Authority). This policy is intended to establish guidelines for the approval of the installation of low pressure force mains that are to be maintained by the Authority for existing properties and new development areas; as well as guidelines for the responsibilities associated with private grinder pump installations. This policy may require interpretation by the General Manager of the Authority and may be amended as necessary by the General Manager. The General Manager shall implement any procedures necessary to enforce the policy.

A. Definitions

- a) “Connection facilities” (“service connections”) includes the line, tap, and other facilities that must be constructed on public property, road right of way, or Authority owned easements from the sewer main up to and including the flush station (See Detail 1). The funding and construction of connection facilities are not covered by the availability fee, and are the responsibility of the Property Owner.
- b) “Existing properties” are the properties with existing structures which have not previously been connected to the Authority sewer system.
- c) “Grinder Pump System” is the grinder pump assembly and all piping including piping on the property owner’s property from the building to the grinder pump and from the grinder pump to the flush station; including all electrical connections, and appurtenances.
- d) “Low Pressure Force Main” - the pressure main (in the right of way or easement dedicated to the Authority) and the pressure service pipe to the property up to and including the flush station.
- e) “Lateral” - the piping between the building and the grinder pump assembly.
- f) “Maintenance” - any required preventative or corrective service, repair, or replacement necessary to maintain the grinder pump system to optimal operating condition.
- g) “Property Owner”- the owner of a specific property, such as Developers, Builders, individual property owners, corporations, partnerships, government entities or any other owner.

B. Low Pressure Force Main Applicability

Low Pressure Force Mains shall only be used where connection to the Authority’s sewer system is required and the use of a gravity system is not possible or reasonably feasible, as determined by the Authority’s Engineering & Planning Division and approved by the Engineering & Planning Director. In the case of new subdivisions, written concurrence from the Authority’s Director of Operations & Maintenance Division is also required. The decision to allow the use of a low pressure force main instead of a gravity system shall be at the sole discretion of the Authority. The design and construction of low pressure force main systems

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shall be in compliance with and meet the requirements of the Authority's Utility Standards Manual (USM). Factors the Authority may consider in determining if a gravity system is not possible or reasonably feasible include, but are not limited to:

- a) Likelihood of future extension of the sewer system in the vicinity under consideration
- b) Environmental impacts
- c) The number of properties to be served
- d) Conflicts with existing infrastructure such as roads or utilities

C. Grinder Pump Applicability

Property owners may elect to connect to the Authority's sewer system via grinder pump subject to the Property Owner Responsibilities below.

D. Property Owner Responsibilities (Existing Properties and New Development)


a) **Service Connection Only**

Property owners requesting to install a grinder pump in order to connect to an existing Service Authority sewer main (whether a gravity main, force main, or a low pressure force main) must apply for a service connection (see Service Connection Policy). The property owner shall be responsible to install the Grinder Pump System and Connection Facilities, and pay all related installation costs. The property owner shall have the installation performed by a contractor of his choosing. The Connection Facilities shall be dedicated to and accepted by the Authority for ownership and maintenance. The property owner must obtain and satisfy the requirements of any required permits from the appropriate Building Official (i.e. Prince William County, Town of Dumfries, etc.) or permitting agency.

b) **Service Connection with Low Pressure Force Main Extension**

Property owners requesting to construct a low pressure force main and associated grinder pump(s) must apply for a service connection (see Service Connection Policy). Property owners shall not install a grinder pump and low pressure force main without approval by the Authority. The property owner shall be responsible to install the Grinder Pump System, Connection Facilities, and Low Pressure Force Main and pay all related installation costs. The property owner shall have the installation performed by a contractor of his choosing, subject to all USM requirements. The Low Pressure Force Main and Connection Facilities shall be dedicated to and accepted by the Authority for ownership and maintenance. The property owner must obtain and satisfy the requirements of any required permits from the appropriate Building Official (i.e. Prince William County, Town of Dumfries, etc.) or permitting agency.

c) **Any property with sewer service that is served by a private well must have a water meter, issued by the Authority, installed on the well prior to connection to the Service Authority's System. The property owner shall purchase the water meter from the Authority, at the same time as paying**

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the availability fee. The property owner shall provide and install a meter yoke, meter crock, and meter crock cover and the Authority shall install the well meter. Installation must meet all Authority specifications provided by the Service Authority at the time of approval. After the property owner has installed the meter crock and yoke, the Authority shall install the appropriately sized meter. The well meter shall be installed at a location approved by the Authority in accordance with the Authority's water meter standards. The Authority shall use the well meter reading when billing for sewer use. The property owner agrees to grant access to the water meter for reading and routine maintenance during regular business hours. Failure to grant access shall result in disconnection of service.

- d) Ownership, maintenance, repair, and replacement of the Grinder Pump System shall be the sole responsibility of the property owner. The Grinder Pump System must be located on the property to be served.

E. Service Authority Responsibilities for Low Pressure Force Mains


All maintenance of the Low Pressure Force Mains and Connection Facilities in the Right of Way or easement dedicated to the Service Authority shall be the responsibility of the Service Authority.

F. Service Authority Responsibilities (In cases where a grinder pump is provided for the benefit of the Service Authority).

- a) The Authority's Director of Engineering and the Director of Operations and Maintenance may determine that it is necessary and in the best interest of the Authority's system to install grinder pumps at properties which are already served by gravity laterals. (e.g. Nokesville Pumpover and Wellington Road Interceptor, where needed to prevent sewage backup into home). In these cases, the Authority shall provide and install the Grinder Pump System from the property owner's existing lateral connection to the Authority's sewer system. This shall include design, inspection, electrical connection from the alarm panel to the grinder pump, grinder pump and tank, and associated pipe and appurtenances. In these circumstances, the Authority shall provide on-going maintenance of the Grinder Pump System at no cost to the property owner.
- b) Properties that meet the circumstances described in (F.a), above, and are served by a private well must have a water meter, issued by the Authority, installed on the well. The Authority shall install the well meter, meter yoke, meter crock, and meter crock cover. Installation must meet all Authority specifications as shown in the USM at the time of approval. The well meter shall be installed at a location approved by the Authority in accordance with the Authority's water meter standards. The Authority shall use the well meter reading when billing for sewer use. The property owner agrees to grant access to the water meter for reading and routine maintenance during regular business hours. Failure to grant access shall result in disconnection of service.

G. Continuing Service and Fees.

- a) The Authority shall continue to provide maintenance to residential properties in which the Authority previously accepted responsibility to maintain the Grinder Pump System for a maintenance fee. The Authority does not offer maintenance services to commercial customers. The Authority shall not offer new maintenance service to any new customers.

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- b) Grinder pump maintenance fees shall cover the estimated cost of maintenance and replacement. Grinder pump fees shall be adjusted as necessary by the General Manager. Grinder pump fees shall be assessed monthly.

H. Account Default and Failure to Grant Access

The property owner is responsible for paying all usage and service fees. The Authority's responsibilities for maintenance services under this Policy shall cease if an account is in default. Default for an account held by a property owner shall be defined as an account which has been closed for non-payment. Default for an account held by a tenant shall be defined as an unpaid account thirty (30) days after notice to the property owner that such account has not been paid or thirty (30) days from filing a lien for such payment. If disruption of a maintenance service occurs, future service shall be at the sole discretion of the Authority. Additionally, failure to grant access to the Grinder Pump System for maintenance shall relieve the Service Authority of any and all responsibilities for maintenance, and such responsibilities shall revert to the property owner.

