

## **POLICY OF THE UPPER MORELAND-HATBORO JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY REGARDING MAINTENANCE AND BLOCKAGES AFFECTING CONNECTED PROPERTIES**

This document provides a summary of the policy of the Upper Moreland-Hatboro Joint Sewer Authority (Authority) regarding clearing blockages from laterals. This document is only a summary. The full policy may be obtained from the Authority. The Authority's policy regarding blockages is the same as the policies of many municipalities and authorities in the area and the United States.

**In the event you experience a backup or slow-running drains, it is imperative that your first call be the Authority, and not to a plumber.** The reason for this is explained below.

### **WHAT IS A LATERAL?**

A lateral is the pipe that runs from your house to the Authority's collection line. The Authority's collection line is usually located in the street or in the public right-of-way in front of your house. The property owner owns the part of the lateral between the house and the curb line or public right-of-way, The Authority owns the part of the lateral between the curb line or public-right-of-way and the Authority's collection line. Your lateral may also connect to a collection line located in an easement across private or public land, in which case you, the property owner, owns the entire lateral.

### **POLICY**

#### **Clearing Blockages**

The property owner is responsible for clearing and maintaining the *entire* sewer lateral, including the part that runs from the curb line to the Authority's collection line. The property owner is responsible for clearing any blockage in the lateral caused by roots, debris, foreign objects, etc., no matter which part of the lateral contains the blockage.

#### **Repairing Broken, Crushed or Damaged Laterals**

The property owner is responsible for repairing broken, crushed or damaged parts of the lateral between the building on the property and the curb line. The Authority will replace or repair the part of the lateral between the curb and the Authority's collection line in the street only if it is broken, crushed or damaged such that sewage cannot flow through that part of the lateral and the damaged condition is verified by the Authority.

### **WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A BACKUP**

It is extremely important that you contact the Authority ***first*** if you experience a backup or slow draining wastewater from your sinks or toilets. This will allow the Authority to determine if the fault lies in its collection lines. The Authority will respond as promptly as possible. We suggest you do not contact a plumber until the Authority has determined that its collection line is running freely and is not blocked. ***If the Authority's collection line is blocked, the Authority will clear the blockage at no expense to the homeowner.***

Again, please note that this is only a summary of the Authority's policy. The full policy is available from the Authority.