The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) is pleased to announce that the local sanitary sewer project for your street has entered the construction phase. A notice from our contractor will be placed on your door that will provide a specific starting date and other useful information.

The following information is provided to you in order to explain some basic information about the upcoming sewer installation project for your area.

**BIDDING AND AWARDING A CONTRACT**

Before local sewer construction can begin, MSD must bid and award a construction contract. These contracts are public improvements, paid by public funds, paying prevailing wages and covered by special assessment bonds when the job is complete. MSD must follow strict bidding laws. Awards are made based on “lowest and best” bid.

**SEWER CONSTRUCTION BEGINS**

MSD selects a contractor to install the sewer and to restore all disturbed areas after sewer installation is complete. The contractor must notify residents when actual construction is expected to begin. Additionally, the contractor must submit a traffic control plan, showing when traffic will be restricted. Some projects require street closures and detour signs to be posted. The contractor tries to maintain access to individual driveways; however, sometimes a driveway must be blocked overnight.

Activity at the site begins when our contractor brings the needed equipment and materials to the project site. Prior to beginning trench excavation, the contractor will remove trees and brush to clear a path for the sewer trenching operation.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC SEWER IMPROVEMENT**

The public sewer improvement includes a sewer pipe, manholes and a service lateral for each benefited property. The public sewer is located underground and is usually 8 inches in diameter. The sewer depth can be as shallow as 5 feet and can be as deep as 40 feet in some extreme cases. The service lateral extends from the mainline sewer to the limit of the right-of-way or the limit of the permanent sewer easement. MSD’s contractor or the MSD construction representative will verify with you the preferred location of the service lateral for your property. Our contractor typically installs the sewer pipe by digging a trench with a backhoe. There are instances when it is necessary to install the sewer by use of trenchless technologies such as tunneling, drilling or boring & jacking. Trenchless methods generally require a pit at each end of the sewer segment.
CONSIDERATIONS DURING CONSTRUCTION

We understand that construction of a sewer often results in temporary inconvenience to nearby residents. MSD and our contractor will do what we can to minimize any disruption to your normal routine. It is MSD’s job to accommodate your needs and to get the sewer installed in the most efficient way possible.

If there are construction problems, please first try to speak to the MSD construction representative at the site. Our representative will strive to resolve your concerns and issues as soon as possible. You may also call MSD’s Engineering Customer Service at (513) 557-3594.

TAPPING THE SEWER

MSD installs a 6-inch diameter sewer lateral for each benefited property. The lateral begins at the mainline sewer and terminates at your property line.

After the sewer is installed, each benefited property will receive a notice from their local health district that will indicate when their home must be connected to the sewer.

Each property owner must solicit bids and hire a plumber to connect the building drain to the sewer lateral. Plumbers doing this work must be certified with MSD as “sewer tappers.” The list of these certified tappers is available on the MSD website at www.msdgc.org. Costs vary, but if neighbors secure one contractor to perform several taps, costs are cheaper.

Please be advised! The sewer tappers list is NOT an endorsement or recommendation of any particular company or individual listed! MSD recommends that you follow the same steps and precautions you would take for any home improvement. Some of these steps might include:

• Obtain more than one bid for the work;
• Ask for references and check them out;
• Check with an agency such as the Better Business Bureau;
• Get a written contract and make sure it covers all the work that is to be done.
• Limit the amount of any down payment.

NEXT STEPS

Information regarding the final assessment process will be provided to you after sewer construction is complete.

We appreciate your cooperation!