

What is the Private Service Lateral Program (PSLP)?

The PSLP is a program designed to inspect, test, and repair sewer service lines (laterals) from homes/buildings to the mainline (which is usually in the street). The repairs may include removal of blockages by roots or grease and realigning joints.

Only WWTA customers served by the gravity portion of sewer collection system will fall under the PSLP sewers. While Signal Mountain and East Ridge are the first municipalities WWTA will serve, the program will ultimately serve all of WWTA municipality members and unincorporated Hamilton County.

What is the purpose of the PSLP?

Hamilton County WWTA received an Order from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to correct bypass issues on Signal Mountain. Until the problems are adequately addressed, with the exception of those who had agreements in place prior to the moratorium, the WWTA will not be allowed to connect new customers to the Signal Mountain collection system.

This area of Signal Mountain will be targeted by PSLP first.

TDEC also required the WWTA to develop a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to establish a Maintenance, Operation, and Management (MOM) program for the entire collection system.

What is the cost of the program?

In accordance with the approved WWTA procedures and regulations, beginning May 1, 2009, the WWTA implemented an eight dollar (\$8.00) fee for the Private Service Lateral Program as part of the requirements set forth by TDEC.

The first two goals of the program will include inspection and testing of the property's sewer lateral. The estimated cost for this was \$250 - \$300 per lateral. The third goal of the program is to make repairs. Repairs were estimated to cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000 per lateral. The WWTA Board voted unanimously to implement the eight dollar (\$8.00) per month service fee for the next 20 years to finance the program.

Who will make the repairs to the lateral lines?

WWTA has gone through an extensive selection process with local **Plumbers** (link the word Plumber to [PSLP Qualified Master Plumber's List \(02/12/10\)](#) file) and an Evaluation Contractor.

How does the WWTA fix a defective sewer lateral?

The WWTA will fix your lateral in four phases.

Phase 1: The plumber assigned to work on your property will check for, and install if necessary, the cleanout closest to your home or building.

Phase 2: From this cleanout, the Evaluation Contractor will video and test your service lateral.

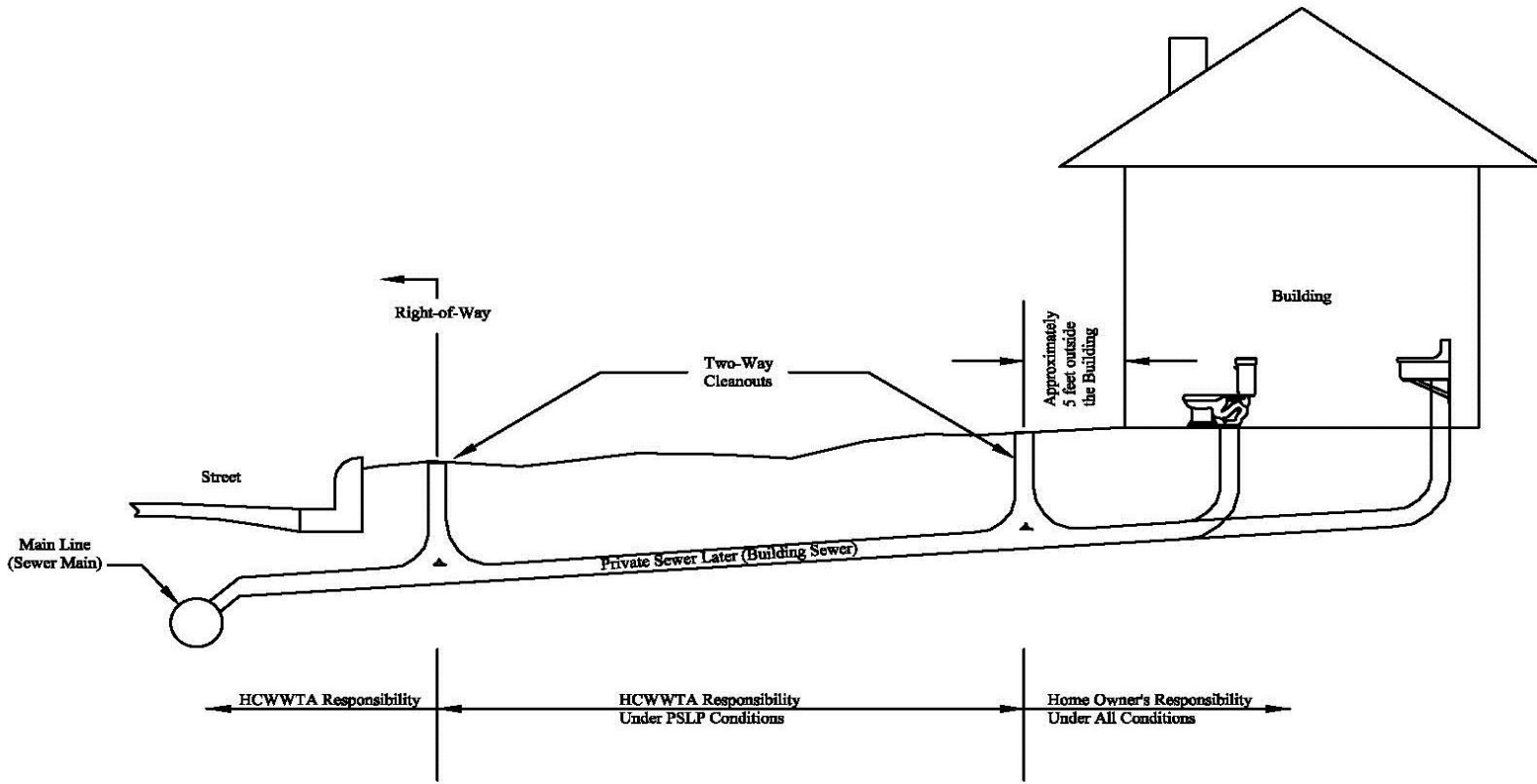
Phase 3: Based on the video and testing results, the WWTA will assign work to the plumber that checked the cleanout in Phase 1.

Phase 4: The Evaluation Contractor will return to your property to test the work performed by the plumber.

Note: All repairs to and/or replacements of service laterals will be performed under the direction of a Licensed Master Plumber that has passed a qualification process required by the WWTA. In addition, this Licensed Master Plumber will guarantee their work for 5 years.

What is a Sewer Lateral?

A sewer lateral is a pipe, normally 4" in diameter for residential and larger for commercial buildings, which runs underground from the foundation of a home or business and connects to the public sewer main. This private sewer line transports sewage away from a home or business and deposits it into a larger public sewer main.



Cross-Section

This service lateral is not a continuous pipe. The lateral consists of several sections that are joined together. It is possible that these sections are a variety of materials (clay, brick, concrete, cast iron, VCP, PVC, and ABS composite), which is can be a big part of the problem that the WWTA is trying to address.

Most private laterals were installed when homes were built and the majority of these lines have never been repaired or replaced. Communities with clay pipe laterals having cement joints or cast iron laterals installed decades ago will have more issues compared to newer cities or newer sections of your city, which likely have PVC or ductile iron laterals. However, all laterals, both new and old, can still break, shift, collapse or become choked by roots.

Will the WWTA enter my property without my knowledge to conduct testing?

The WWTA will seek permission from property owners and work to notify both property owners and tenants before work begins on the property. Since a portion of the sewer is located on private property, the WWTA will send a [Consent and Agreement](#) [\(link to Consent Letter\)](#) form to all property owners and tenants.

What should I do if I have a backup before a Plumber or Evaluation Contractor contacts me?

Only plumbers Qualified by the WWTA will be allowed to make repairs in the PSLP. You should contact one of these [plumbers](#) [\(link to plumbers list\)](#). Contacting a plumber that is not pre-qualified with WWTA could result in the homeowner being responsible for the cost of the repairs.