City of Oak Ridge
Public Works Department
East Plant III Project

EPA Sewer Work Information

September 2013

The City of Oak Ridge received an Administrative Order (AO) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in September 2010. The AO directs the City of Oak Ridge to conduct numerous studies, prepare the associated analysis and to undertake significant work activities to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows by September 2015. The studies and analyses have been completed; these identified a tremendous amount of sewer rehabilitation work that will need to be performed throughout the City.

The required sewer rehabilitation work will challenge all of us: citizens, businesses, city staff and contractors performing the work. In order to achieve the best results we will all need to work together. Each individual can contribute to the success of the sewer rehabilitation work by communicating with contractors and having patience as daily routines are impacted.

You are receiving this notification because sewer rehabilitation will begin near your home or business within the next few weeks. The sewer rehabilitation project consists of a contractor with multiple crews repairing and/or replacing manholes and sewer lines. The rehabilitation work will primarily be in the street right-of-way, but there will be some work required in the City's sewer easements located in the front and back yards of some residential properties as well as within the sewer easements of business properties.

As the contractor performs preconstruction tasks, they will provide to the Oak Ridge Public Works Department a list of addresses that will require work outside of the street right-of-way. For citizens and businesses affected by this work, the Public Works Department will (1) telephone the resident or business and leave a message and (2) mail a letter explaining the specific work required in the sewer easement, such as replacing a manhole located in their backyard or removing a fence to repair a sewer line. The letter will contain contact information for the contractor. Each individual is encouraged to call the contractor and discuss the work specific to their property.

Prior to any work being performed, each resident will receive a door hanger notice (orange paper) that will include the contractor's name and phone number. Please look for and keep the door hanger for the duration of the sewer work in your neighborhood.

With all of us working together, we anticipate few problems and minimal disruption. Please remember that communication is key for the success of the sewer projects. We thank you in advance for working with us.

We are currently updating the EPA information included on the City's website at www.oakridgetn.gov right side of main page, "EPA Sewer Work." If you have any questions, concerns or comments about the sewer work required by the AO, please email pubworksdis@oakridgetn.gov or call and leave a message at 425-3495.

Thank you again for your cooperation and assistance.