

Jackson/East Taylor Sewer Authority Provides Helpful Questions & Answers on Pressure Testing

The Jackson/East Taylor Sewer Authority (JETSA) is working to inform nearly 2,000 customers that they must “pressure test their service lateral” by the end of the year. Our goal is to make the process as easy as possible for each and every customer. **As homeowners and longtime residents of this community, our board cares deeply about our neighbors. We do not want to place an undo burden on anyone, but the inflow and infiltration have to be removed from the system.**

The following information will help everyone understand more about pressure testing, why it’s important, and how we can work together to get the job done. Please feel free to contact us at 322-3444 during regular business hours, watch the Jackson Township website, and other communications for more information.

We need your help to ensure that the sewage system . . . a vital infrastructure for the entire community . . . operates at top capacity now and into the future.

*Sincerely,
The JETSA Board*

Q: Why is pressure testing being required?

A: The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has ordered the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Johnstown (Johnstown Regional Sewage) to eliminate inflow and infiltration from its Dornick Point sewage wastewater treatment plant. Since the sewage/wastewater collected by JETSA is conveyed to Johnstown Regional Sewage for treatment, JETSA is subject to the mandates of the DEP order. We have been ordered to inspect our entire sewer system for leaks, inflow and infiltration, and JETSA will ultimately be surcharged

for all extra water that is going through its lines into Dornick Point.

Together, we can eliminate that extra water that will push all of our sewage fees up. We must accomplish this as a community so that we can keep our sewage charges as low as possible now and into the future.

Q: Who has to have a pressure test conducted?

A: Each home and/or business that connected to the original sanitary system (not the two recent additions) must pressure test their entire service lateral from the viewport to under slab and to all drains in the home or business in a manner consistent with JETSA’s Rules and Regulations. Those Rules are available for a nominal fee at the JETSA office.

Words like “lateral from the viewport to under slab” may be as clear as mud to you, but qualified contractors who understand JETSA’s DEP-mandated Rules and Regulations are familiar with what needs to be done. A partial list of the contractors who can test your service line is available at the JETSA office and online at www.jacksontwppa.com. (These are the contractors who have contacted JETSA to be placed on the list; there certainly may be other qualified entities capable of performing the test for you.)

Q: Exactly what is a pressure test?

A: You put a plug in one end of the sewage pipe at the viewport (which is outside) and a plug in the other end of the sewage pipe indoors (such as in a garage or a basement), and then you put five pounds of air pressure into it. It has to hold the five pounds of pressure for 15 minutes to pass the test. That proves there are no leaks into the JETSA sewage system.