

DIRECT CONNECTIONS TO REGIONAL LIQUID WASTE FACILITIES

Effective Date: March 27, 2020

Approved By: GVS&DD Board

Policy No. UT-015

PURPOSE

To establish the process and criteria for direct connections to Metro Vancouver's regional liquid waste facilities and to define subsequent ownership, financial, and maintenance responsibilities. This Policy applies only to facilities used in the management of sanitary sewage or combined sewage (e.g. drainage facilities are excluded).

DEFINITIONS

"Board" means the Board of Directors of the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD);

"Legacy Private Direct Connection" refers to a Private Direct Connection approved by the GVS&DD in association with the granting of a Statutory Right of Way (SRW);

"Member Jurisdiction" means a member of the GVSⅅ

"Metro 2040" means the *Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw (Metro Vancouver 2040)*, as amended from time to time;

"Municipal Direct Connection" means a direct connection from a sewer or force main owned by a Member Jurisdiction which is designed to convey sewage from one or more properties to a GVS&DD sewer facility;

"Non-Member" means a local, Provincial, Federal, or First Nation government that is not a Member Jurisdiction;

"Non-Pressurized" means that a sewer facility does not experience water levels in excess of the top of the conveying pipe to which the connection is proposed;

"Private Direct Connection" means a direct connection from a Private Property to a GVS&DD sewer approved by the GVS&DD prior to the effective date of this Policy;

"Private Property" means private property contained within the boundaries of a Member Jurisdiction;

"Property" means Federal, Provincial, First Nation Lands, municipal, or private property within the sewerage area service boundaries of the GVSⅅ and

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“Temporary Private Direct Connection” means a private direct connection approved by the GVS&DD on a temporary basis on or after the effective date of this Policy.

POLICY

This Policy will apply to GVS&DD sewer pipes greater than 450 mm nominal diameter. All aspects of the Policy will apply immediately except as otherwise noted.

GVS&DD member jurisdictions collect liquid waste from Properties through a network of municipal sewers. The municipal sewers connect directly to the GVS&DD’s regional sewer system which conveys the liquid waste through large pipes for treatment at regional wastewater treatment plants.

Metro Vancouver permits Municipal Direct Connections to GVS&DD facilities from Member Jurisdictions; as per Section 29(1) of the *GVS&DD Act*, all requests by Member Jurisdictions for connections must be approved by Metro Vancouver. The application process and criteria for a Municipal Direct Connection and a Temporary Private Direct Connection are outlined in the following sections.

Under exceptional circumstances in the past, Metro Vancouver has approved requests from Member Jurisdictions for Private Direct Connections to the regional system. Metro Vancouver does not permit any new Private Direct Connections to GVS&DD facilities. Existing Private Direct Connections are subject to removal under terms and conditions outlined in the following sections.

In the future and under exceptional circumstances, Metro Vancouver may consider approval of new Temporary Private Direct Conditions; these connections will be subject to removal under terms and conditions outlined in the following sections.

PROCESS AND CRITERIA FOR A MUNICIPAL DIRECT CONNECTION

Metro Vancouver will only consider an application to connect a municipal sewer to the regional sewer system if the following criteria are met. The Member Jurisdiction must:

- ensure the new serviced area is within a GVS&DD sewerage area and meets the provisions of *Metro 2040*;
- use the appropriate form, currently Form 35A – Application for Connection – Sewer or Drain, on the Metro Vancouver website to apply for a direct connection to a regional facility; and
- confirm:
 - the connecting sewer is municipally-owned;
 - the connection meets GVS&DD connection requirements;
 - the connection meets the provisions of the *GVS&DD Sewer Use Bylaw* and related bylaws under the Liquid Waste Regulatory Program; and
 - the member jurisdiction will coordinate and be responsible for the connection work, contractor, and all connection costs.

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Metro Vancouver staff will review the application for a Municipal Direct Connection from a regional perspective, including consideration of feasibility and technical considerations (e.g. opportunities to minimize and/or consolidate connections). As appropriate, an approval letter may be issued with related terms and conditions.

Unless ownership is otherwise noted on drawings, or other documents, the member jurisdiction will own the portion of the connection pipe located on municipal property, or municipal rights-of-way up to a point specified in the GVS&DD connection requirements.

EXCEPTION TO MUNICIPAL DIRECT CONNECTION – TEMPORARY PRIVATE DIRECT CONNECTION

To protect regional and private infrastructure, the GVS&DD will not approve any new Private Direct Connections. Regional sewers are typically large diameter pipes that are subject to extremely high flows and pressure. For this reason, and other factors such as malodorous air, corrosive flows, backwatering, and surcharging, Private Direct Connections may cause significant risk to the private property owner. Failures involving connections to GVS&DD facilities are typically expensive and difficult to repair due to the high flows and pressures associated with the regional facility and the inability of GVS&DD to temporarily re-direct very large flows during repairs.

However, if a Member Jurisdiction believes that no feasible municipal sewer facility is available for a Private Property, the Member Jurisdiction may apply to Metro Vancouver for a Temporary Private Direct Connection to a regional facility. The process and criteria for Temporary Private Direct Connections follow.

PROCESS AND CRITERIA TO APPLY FOR A TEMPORARY PRIVATE DIRECT CONNECTION

Metro Vancouver will not consider an application for a Temporary Private Direct Connection unless the following process is followed and the following criteria are met.

The owner of the Private Property must first apply to their Member Jurisdiction for a connection to a suitable municipal sewer facility. If a connection to a municipal sewer is not feasible then the Member Jurisdiction must:

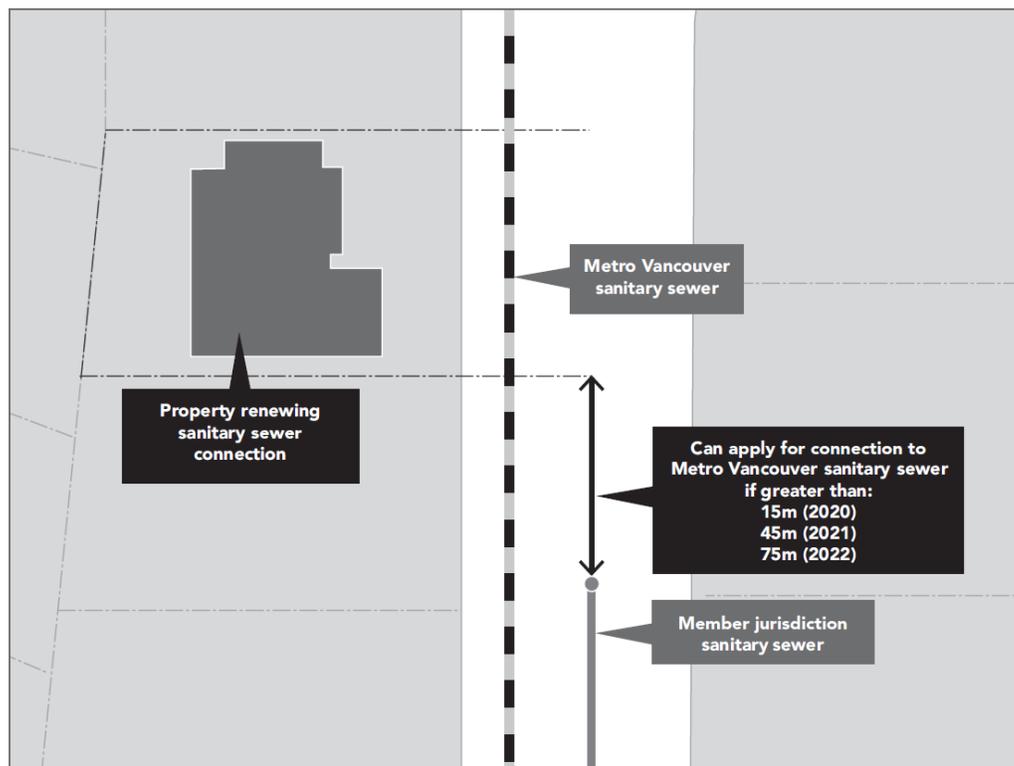
- ensure that the applicant's property is within a GVS&DD sewerage area and meets the provision of *Metro 2040*:
 - if outside a sewerage area, the member jurisdiction must first apply to Metro Vancouver to have the property included in an appropriate sewerage area. This separate process is outlined in the *Regional Growth Strategy, Metro 2040 Implementation Guideline 7 – Extension of Regional Sewerage Services*.
- submit an application, currently Form 35A – Application for Connection – Sewer or Drain, on the Metro Vancouver website, to apply for a Temporary Private Direct Connection to a GVS&DD facility;
- submit an engineering report to Metro Vancouver that:

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- confirms that no on-site treatment or alternative disposal system is feasible and recommends that a Private Direct Connection to a GVS&DD sewer is the only feasible option;
- confirms that no municipal sewer facility is within the specified distance (Figure 1) of the nearest property line;
- the implementation dates corresponding to the distance shown on Figure 1 is:
 - 15 metres – upon adoption of this Policy;
 - 45 metres – January 1, 2021; and,
 - 75 metres – January 1, 2022.
- confirms that a non-pressurized GVS&DD sewer (current and future conditions) is adjacent to the property;
- outlines costs associated with potential options for connecting to the GVS&DD sewer, which will be borne by the member jurisdiction; and,
- provides an estimate of how long a temporary connection will be required.
- ensure the connection meets the provisions of the *GVS&DD Sewer Use Bylaw* and related bylaws under the Liquid Waste Regulatory Program; and
- confirm that the Member Jurisdiction will coordinate and be responsible for the connection work, contractor, and all connection costs.

Metro Vancouver staff will review the application for a Temporary Private Direct Connection from a regional perspective, including consideration of feasibility, appropriate land use, and technical considerations.

Figure 1: Distance to Municipal Sewer



REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL OF A TEMPORARY PRIVATE DIRECT CONNECTION

If the GVS&DD approves a Temporary Private Direct Connection, requirements will be provided to the Member Jurisdiction that may include the following and other related terms and conditions:

- GVS&DD's required connection details;
- location of the connection and schedule of requirements of the connection work;
- discharge limits; and
- requirements for:
 - the member jurisdiction to retain an Engineer-of-Record;
 - the member jurisdiction to own a portion of the sewer between the private sewer (e.g. typically from property line) and the GVS&DD facility;
 - GVS&DD to review the installation; and
 - all aspects of the connection including design, construction and inspections with all associated costs to be borne by the member jurisdiction.

Once installed, the Member Jurisdiction will own, and be responsible for, all aspects of the Temporary Private Direct Connection, including ongoing operations and maintenance, upgrades, and decommissioning costs for temporary connections when a suitable new connection is installed.

REMOVAL OF PRIVATE DIRECT CONNECTIONS

An existing Private Direct Connection shall be subject to removal when a Member Jurisdiction requires a new connection (e.g. change in land use, property consolidation, major renovation) and has installed a sewer within the specified distance (Figure 1) of the Private Property, except as noted below.

Metro Vancouver will not require removal of the Private Direct Connection if, in its opinion, the orientation of the new sewer is not reasonably compatible with the existing site plumbing (e.g. would require a new connection on the opposite side of the Property).

When an existing Private Direct Connection is removed, the Member Jurisdiction shall be responsible for decommissioning the existing connection per GVS&DD requirements and establishing a suitable new connection at their cost.

REMOVAL OF TEMPORARY PRIVATE DIRECT CONNECTIONS

An existing Temporary Private Direct Connection shall be subject to removal when a Member Jurisdiction installs a new sewer within the road allowance adjacent to the Private Property. Metro Vancouver will not require removal of the Temporary Private Direct Connection if, in its opinion, the orientation of the new sewer is not reasonably compatible with the existing site plumbing (e.g. would require a new connection on the opposite side of the Property).

When an existing Temporary Private Direct Connection is removed, the Member Jurisdiction shall be responsible for decommissioning the existing connection per GVS&DD requirements and establishing a suitable new connection at their cost.

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LEGACY PRIVATE DIRECT CONNECTIONS

Prior to the implementation of this Policy, certain Private Direct Connections were permitted in return for a property owner granting a Statutory Right of Way (SRW) in favour of the GVS&DD allowing a regional pipe across private property. These are Legacy Private Direct Connections. If a municipal bylaw requires the property owner of a Legacy Private Direct Connection to seek a new connection, then Metro Vancouver staff will review the terms of the original SRW and the municipal bylaw to determine which governs. Metro Vancouver will not consider future Legacy Private Direct Connections through the SRW process except as otherwise directed by the Board.

DIRECT CONNECTIONS FOR NON-MEMBERS

Direct connections for Non-Members will only be approved as directed by the Board