

CARIBOU UTILITIES DISTRICT  
SEWER USE ORDINANCE  
and  
BY-LAWS RELATING TO SEWER USE  
*Amended August 19, 2009*

Article I - Definitions

Section 101 – “Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)” shall mean the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in five (5) days at 20 degrees Celcius, expressed in milligrams per liter.

Section 102 – “Building Sewer (or lateral pipeline)” shall mean that part of the horizontal piping of a drainage system, which extends from the internal building drain to the public sewage disposal collection system.

Section 103 – “City” shall mean the City of Caribou, Maine.

Section 104 – “District (or Sewer District)” shall mean the Caribou Utilities District, which is a quasi-municipal corporation, chartered by the State of Maine and administered by a Board of Trustees, whose five members are appointed by the City Council.

Section 105 – “Domestic Wastewater” shall mean the liquid and water borne wastes derived from the ordinary living processes, free from industrial wastes, and of such character as to permit satisfactory disposal, without special treatment, into a public sewer system.

Section 106 – “Exfiltration Test” shall mean an inspection test used to determine whether or not the sewer is watertight at all points.

Section 107 – “Cooling Water” shall mean the water discharged from use such as air conditioning, cooling or refrigeration, during which the only pollutant added to the water is heat.

Section 108 – “General Manager (or Superintendent)” shall mean the individual retained or designated by the Board of Trustees to supervise the operation and maintenance of the treatment works.

Section 109 – “Existing Work” shall mean a plumbing system or any part thereof, which has been installed prior to the effective date of these by laws.

Section 110 – “Industrial Wastewater (or Commercial)” shall mean the liquid wastes resulting from the processes employed in, industrial, manufacturing, trade or business establishments, as distinct from domestic wastewater.

Section 111 – “Main (or sewer main or mainline)” shall mean the principal artery of a collection system of continuous piping for carrying wastewater and to which building sewers or laterals are connected.

Section 112 – “Owner” shall mean any individual, firm, company, society, association, corporation or group having title to real property.

Section 113 – “pH” shall mean the logarithm of the reciprocal of the concentration of hydrogen ions in grams per liter of solution.

*ARTICLE I – Cont'd.*

*Section 114 – “Pretreatment” shall mean the application of physical, chemical and biological processes to reduce the amount of pollutants or alter the nature of pollutant properties in wastewater prior to discharge into the public sewer.*

*Section 115 – “Public Sewer” shall mean any part of the entire system of sewer mainlines that carry wastewater, and which is controlled by the Sewer District.*

*Section 116 – “Treatment Plant” shall mean any arrangement of devices and structures used for the treating wastewater to remove solids.*

*Section 117 – “Wastewater” shall mean the water borne wastes from dwellings, commercial building, industrial facilities and institutions together with any groundwater, surface water and storm water that may be present, which is discharged into the District system.*

*ARTICLE II – PROHIBITIONS AND LIMITATION OF WASTEWATER DISCHARGES INTO PUBLIC SEWERS*

*Section 201 – No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any storm water, cooling water, surface water, ground water, artesian well water, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, or any unpolluted water into any public sewer, unless a permit is issued by the District. The District may approve the discharge of such water only when no reasonable alternative for disposal is available. If a permit is granted for the discharge of such water into the public sewer, the user shall pay the applicable charges and fees and meet such other conditions as the District may impose*

*Section 202 – No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any of the following described wastewaters into any public sewers:*

- (a) Any water having a temperature higher than one hundred and fifty (150) degrees F. – (65 degrees C.)*
- (b) Any wastewater containing fats, grease, oils or wax whether emulsified, in suspension or floating, in concentrations more than one hundred (100) milligrams per liter of containing substances, which may solidify or become viscous at temperatures between thirty-two (32) and one hundred and fifty (150) degrees F. (0 to 65 degrees C.)*
- (c) Any garbage that has not been shredded or ground to ½ inch in any dimension.*
- (d) Any liquids, solids or gases that are combustible, flammable or explosive, such as, but not limited to, gasoline, fuel oil, or lubricating oils.*
- (e) Any solid or viscous substances capable of causing obstruction to the flow in the sewers, such as, but not limited to, rags, plastics, glass, metal, wood, ashes, cinders, mud or sand.*
- (f) Any corrosive wastes capable of causing damage to structures, equipment and piping or a hazard to people.*
- (g) Any disclosed waste not removable by the treatment process.*
- (h) Any toxic substances in amounts exceeding standards set by the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency or which may interfere with the biological processes or efficiency of the treatment system.*

*ARTICLE II – Cont'd.*

- (i) Any noxious or malodorous solids, liquids or gases, which are capable of creating a public nuisance or hazard to life and health.*
- (j) Any wastewater which is not amenable to treatment by the wastewater treatment process employed, or are amenable to treatment but not to such degree that the quality of the effluent from the treatment works will meet the required limitations of agencies having jurisdiction over the discharge of the wastewater.*

*Section 203 – If wastewaters containing any substances described in Section 202 of these by-laws are discharged or proposed to be discharged into the sewer system the General Manager may:*

- (a) Prohibit the discharge of such wastewater by seeking injunctive relief from the courts.*
- (b) Require pretreatment to an acceptable degree for discharge to the sewer system.*
- (c) Require control over the quantities and flow rates of such wastewater.*
- (d) Require payment for the additional cost of handling, treating, and disposing of such objectionable wastewater.*

*Section 204 – If wastewaters containing any substances described in Section 202 of these by-laws are discharged into the sewer system, and if such discharge in the Trustee's judgment may cause a hazard to the public health or safety, the Trustee's shall order the General Manager to shut off and prohibit such discharge into the District's sewer system.*

*Section 205 – Grease, oil, sand and soil interceptors or traps of sufficient size shall be provided if and when, in the opinion of the General Manager, they are necessary for the proper handling of such wastes as are harmful to the treatment works. Such interceptors and traps shall be maintained continuously in satisfactory and effective operation by the owner, at his expense.*

*Section 206 – If pretreatment of wastewater is required by any user of the sewer system, the design and installation of such pretreatment shall be subject to the review and approval of the General Manager and must comply with all applicable codes and regulations. Such pretreatment system shall be maintained continuously in satisfactory operation by the owner, at his expense.*

**ARTICLE III – REGULATION AND CONTROL OF INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL WASTEWATER DISCHARGES.**

*Section 301 – Any industrial or commercial facility discharging or proposes to discharge wastewater into the public sewer of greater strength and volume than domestic wastewater must obtain written permission from the board of Trustees.*

*Section 302 – Whenever it shall be necessary for purposed of these by-laws the General Manager or his authorized representative may enter upon any property for the purpose of obtaining records, inspection monitoring or pretreatment equipment or sampling the wastewater discharge.*

*Section 303 – Each industry or commercial user shall provide protection from accidental discharge of prohibitive material or a sudden overloading of wastes regulated by these by-laws.*

*ARTICLE III – Cont'd.*

*Section 304 – If, for any reason, a facility fails or is unable to comply with the prohibition of accidental discharge, whoever is in responsible charge of the facility shall immediately notify the treatment plant Superintendent and General Manager of such discharge so that corrective measures, if any, can be taken to protect the treatment system. Upon request by the General Manager a full report shall be given by the facility and corrective measures taken to prevent future accidental discharges within five (5) days of such occurrence.*

*Section 305 – When required by the Trustees all industrial and commercial users shall furnish suitable facilities for sampling, measuring or observation of their wastewater effluent.*

*Section 306 – All tests and analyses of the characteristics of the wastewater from industrial or commercial users shall be determined in accordance with the latest edition of Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater.*

*Section 307 – If, in the judgment of the Board of Trustees, the waste discharge or proposed waste discharge from any industry or commercial facility has such volume, strength or character, a separate agreement or contract apart from these by-laws with the facility may be set forth by the Trustees providing limitations and controls such as flow, strength, contents and user fees.*

*ARTICLE IV – THE INSTALLATION AND CONNECTION OF SEWER SERVICE PIPELINES*

*Section 401 – Every building in the city in which plumbing fixtures are installed shall be connected to the public sewer if such public sewer is adjacent or available to the building. Property within 100 feet of a public sewer shall be considered as adjacent. The City of Caribou may impose additional conditions for sewer connections.*

*Section 402 – At such time as a public sewer becomes available to property not served by a public sewer, the District may impose a charge upon the property owner, whether or not a connection is made from the building to the public sewer. Upon such connection all private sewer disposal facilities shall be abandoned. (Revised 1966)*

*Section 403 – Application for the connection of a building sewer to a public sewer shall be made, at the business office of the Caribou Utilities District, by the owner of the building or his authorized representative. Such applicant for a building sewer shall notify the District when the building sewer is ready for connection and inspection to the public sewer. The District may establish a fee for application and inspection of new connections. (Revised 1986)*

*Section 404 – The building sewer shall be installed in accordance to the State of Maine Plumbing Code and such other codes, rules, and regulations as are imposed by the District. The type of connection from the building sewer to the public sewer main shall be the type recommended by the District.*

*Section 405 – All costs and expenses incident to the installation, connection and maintenance of the building sewer pipeline from the building to the main line public sewer shall be borne by the owner. The District may reimburse the owner for the cost of pavement within the public way for replacement of laterals. (Revised 1999)*

*Section 406 – Any person proposing a new or additional discharge into the sewer system shall notify the District at least forty-five (45) days prior to the proposed change or connection.*

*ARTICLE V – MAIN-LINE SEWER INSTALLATION AND EXTENSION*

*Section 501 – No public sewer or appurtenance thereof shall be disturbed except under the supervision of the General Manager or his authorized representative.*

*Section 502 – Any person or persons causing damage by unauthorized disturbance of a public sewer shall be liable for such damage and repair.*

*ARTICLE V – Cont'd.*

*Section 503 – Any contractor, utility or individual proposing to dig or excavate in the vicinity or adjacent to public sewer pipeline shall notify the District in advance of such digging or excavating in accordance with District and State of Maine rules and regulations.*

*Section 504 – Public sewer extensions may be constructed by the District, provided that the property owner, builder or developer has a plan approved by the City Planning Board and/or the City Council.*

*Section 505 – Whenever any person or entity undertakes the extension of a public sewer for a property owner, builder or developer an application for such work shall be made in writing and shall include the approved development plan with the existing land contours and the proposed street elevations.*

*Section 506 – If the District does not elect to construct a sewer extension, the property owner, builder or developer may construct the necessary sewer extension. The property owner, builder or developer must pay for the entire installation, including all expenses incidental thereto. The District will contribute materials or funds not to exceed \$1000 per job. (Revised 1988) The engineering design, specifications, and drawings for the sewer extension shall be certified by a professional engineer and shall be subject to the approval by the General Manager. The installation of the sewer extension shall be subject to the periodic inspection by the General Manager or his designee, and the General Manager's decisions shall be final in matters of quality and methods of construction. The sewer, as constructed, shall pass an exfiltration test of the type approved by the General Manager.*

*Section 507 – All public sewer mains constructed under private contract shall satisfy the requirements of an exfiltration test before approval and acceptance by the District. The method and allowance of the exfiltration test are subject to the approval of the General Manager. The contractor shall conduct the exfiltration test and provide all equipment for it.*

*Section 508 – All sewer mains constructed under private contract shall, after acceptance by the District, become the property of the District and shall thereafter be maintained by the District. After acceptance by the District, said sewers shall be guaranteed against defects in materials and workmanship for twelve (12) months.*

*ARTICLE VI – POWERS AND AUTHORITY OF INSPECTORS*

*Section 601 – The General Manager and other authorized employees of the District bearing proper identification shall be permitted to enter all properties, including duly negotiated easement properties, for the purposes of, but not limited to, inspection, observation, measurement, sampling, repair and maintenance of any portion of the sewer system lying within said properties.*