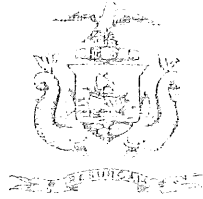


400-D-016

Department of Public Works



Nadeen M. Daniels  
Assistant City Manager  
Director

CITY OF PORTLAND

Nancy L. Knauber  
Associate Engineer  
Engineering Section

William J. Bray  
Deputy Director  
City Engineer

January 26, 1998

File

Mr. William Pickrell  
402 Ray Street  
Portland, ME 04103

Dear Mr. Pickrell:

The City of Portland requires homeowners to connect to the City sewer system when their buildings are within 200 feet of the public sewer (see attached City Ordinance) and their septic system has failed. Your building is not presently within 200 feet of a City sewer, so at this time you can not be required to connect. If or when your septic system fails you will not be required to connect to the City sewer system unless that system has been built within 200 feet of your building.

I can not state that a public sewer will never be extended to within 200 feet of your house. Thus I can not state that your house will never have to connect to the City sewer system. I can tell you, that at the present time there is no plan to extend any City sewer to within 200 feet of your house.

Septic systems fall under the State Plumbing Code and the City's plumbing inspectors have jurisdiction over them. If you have questions regarding your septic system you should get in touch with Kevin Carroll of the Inspection Services Department at 874 - 8708.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Knauber  
Associate Engineer

Attachments

CC: David Peterson -City of Portland, Sr. Wastewater Technician  
Kevin Carroll - City of Portland, Inspection Services

*Wastewater* shall mean a combination of the liquid and the water-carried wastes from residences, commercial buildings, institutions and industrial establishments, together with such ground surface and stormwaters as may be present.

*Watercourse* shall mean a channel in which a flow of water occurs, either continuously or intermittently on a natural basis.

**Sec. 24-35. Sanitary facilities required.**

Every building intended for human habitation, occupancy, employment, recreation or other purposes, situated within the city shall be provided with suitable and sufficient sanitary facilities for the use of the occupants thereof, which facilities in character, number and method of installation shall comply with all health laws of the state, ordinances of the city, and rules and regulations of the state bureau of health so far as the same are compatible and not inconsistent.

\* **Sec. 24-36. Connection to public sewer required.**

The owner of any building used for human habitation, occupancy, employment, recreation or other purposes, situated within the city and abutting on any street, alley or right-of-way in which there is located a public sanitary, combined or interceptor sewer, is hereby required at his expense to connect the building drainage system in the most direct manner possible with the proper public sewer in accordance with the provisions of this article, provided that the public sewer is within two hundred (200) feet of the building (the two hundred (200) feet to be measured in such manner so as not to pass over any property owned privately by anyone other than the owner of the premises from which such measurement is being made). Any required compliance with this section shall be completed within one (1) year after the date of official notice to do so.

\* **Sec. 24-37. Exception for private wastewater system.**

Where the public sewer does not extend to within two hundred (200) feet distant from the nearest point of the building (measured as described in section 24-36), the public sewer shall, at such time, be classified as inaccessible with regard to such premises. Where the public sewers are inaccessible to premises, any building required to be provided with sanitary facilities under section 24-35 shall comply with the following:

- (1) The owner may at his own expense connect with the public sewer even though the building is over two hundred (200) feet distant from the public sewer; or
- (2) Where liquid-carried wastes or wastewater result, they shall discharge into a private wastewater disposal system; or
- (3) Where liquid-carried wastes or wastewater result, they shall discharge into a private wastewater treatment works.

**Sec. 24-38. Private wastewater systems discontinued.**

(a) At such time as a public sewer becomes accessible, as defined in section 24-36, to a property served by a private wastewater disposal system, direct connection shall be made to the public sewer by the owner of such property in compliance with this article within twelve (12) months of receipt of official notice to do so. At the time that direct connection to the public sewer is completed, use of the private wastewater disposal facilities shall have been discontinued. Such abandoned private wastewater disposal system shall be cleaned of sludge and waste materials and filled with clean bankrun gravel or dirt within thirty (30) days of abandonment.