

January 29, 2015

Re: City of Columbia
Capacity Assurance Program

To Whom It May Concern:

As you are aware, the City of Columbia (Columbia) entered into a Consent Decree with the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to resolve alleged Clean Water Act violations related to the operation of Columbia's wastewater collection and treatment system. On May 21, 2014, the U.S. District Court approved the Consent Decree in the matter captioned *The United States of America and State of South Carolina by and through the Department of Health and Environmental Control vs. the City of Columbia*, Civil Action No. 3:13-2429-TLW. A copy of the Consent Decree is available at www.columbiasc.net/utilities-engineering.

The Consent Decree requires Columbia to implement a comprehensive sewer assessment and rehabilitation program and to develop other programs related to the operation and maintenance of Columbia's wastewater sewer system. Additionally, in order to reduce and eliminate sanitary sewer overflows, the terms of the Consent Decree impose certain limitations on the City's ability to accept wastewater from new service connections and increased wastewater flow within all areas served by Columbia's wastewater system, including all satellite sewer systems that discharge to Columbia's wastewater system.

Pursuant to Paragraph 12.e of the Consent Decree, Columbia must implement a capacity assurance program (CAP). Under the current CAP, all new service connections and increased wastewater flow contributing more than 4,000 gallons per day must be reviewed in accordance with the City's CAP. This 4,000 gallons per day threshold is calculated based on the total connections for a proposed development, which will include all phases within a larger common plan of development. The CAP outlines specific criteria by which Columbia determines whether

its collection, transmission, and treatment system has sufficient capacity to accept new connections and increased flows. Proposed wastewater flows of 4,000 gallons per day or less may be approved without further analysis at the discretion of the City.

There are two levels of review that Columbia's Engineering Division may perform as a part of the CAP process. The planning level review, referred to as a Pre-CAP Analysis, provides the prospective developer/engineer with an initial non-binding assessment of the City's ability to collect, transmit, and treat the additional estimated wastewater flow from a proposed development. The second level of review, referred to as a CAP Determination, is performed as a part of the Columbia's sub-division review once a project design is complete. All other requirements of the sub-division review process apply to any proposed development.

There are portions of Columbia's collection and transmission system with limited capacity such that Columbia's approval of additional connections and increased wastewater flow may be substantially constrained under the CAP. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that any new service connection and increased wastewater flow contributing more than 4,000 gallons per day be submitted to the Columbia's Subdivision Review staff for a planning level review Pre-CAP Analysis in the early stages of planning for a proposed development. See the attached Capacity Assurance Program Flow Request Form for information required for Columbia to perform the planning level analysis of the proposed development.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact myself or John Riggs at (803) 545-3400.

Regards,



William H. Davis, P.E.
Wastewater Engineer

cc: Joey Jaco, PE, Utilities Director
Dana Higgins, PE, City Engineer
John Riggs, PE, Hydraulic Engineer
Scott Rogers, Subdivision Review Manager