December 31, 2013

PERMITS & INSPECTIONS HANDOUT
FOR VACUUM SEWER SYSTEM

This structure is being served by a City of Virginia Beach Vacuum sewer system. Connection to the vacuum sewer system is slightly different than connection to City of Virginia Beach gravity sewers.

The physical differences of the owner's plumbing between this vacuum sewer system and a standard gravity sewer system are shown on the vacuum sewer connection detail #14-1; 14-3 and 14-4. These physical differences are the 4" air intake with screen to be constructed. The lateral plumber near the house, solvent welded joints from the house to the vacuum pit lateral, and the depth of the stub at the connection point is either approximately 4' 6" or 6' 6" below existing grade. The screen to be used in the 4" air intake structure must be obtained from Permits & Inspections.

The notes on the vacuum sewer connection detail should be followed carefully. Note 2 informs the plumber that sewage from the septic tank of an existing structure cannot be diverted to the City valve pit until an interface valve controller has been installed by Public Utilities. Close coordination is needed between the plumber, Permits & Inspections, and Public Utilities/Operations & Maintenance (385-1400) for activation of the vacuum sewer system for existing structures having the flow being diverted from septic systems. Please discuss the coordination efforts which are needed for this system with Permits & Inspections.

Also noted on the detail is that no groundwater, sand, stone or construction debris of any kind shall be allowed to enter the gravity line during installation of the sewer main from the building to the vacuum pit. Also, disposal of surplus or waste construction materials, including sheet rock, mud, mortar, etc., into the sanitary vacuum sewer is not permitted at anytime.

Foreign material such as rocks, sheet rock, mud, and mortar, among others, will adversely affect performance of the vacuum sewer system. Therefore, Public Utilities will inspect the vacuum valve pit for foreign material before activating each valve pit. If foreign material is present in the valve pit, Public Utilities will then not activate the valve pit until the foreign material has been cleaned out of the vacuum valve pit sump.

If you have any questions, please contact the Plumbing Permits Office at 385-8066.