From:	Jane Murray
To:	Hedman, Susan; Kaplan, Robert; Hyde, Tinka; Maraldo, Dean; Prichard, Gary; Desai, Sudhir; Fred Snell; Derek Allen
Cc:	Councilmember Gene Meadows; Kevin W.W. Johnson; Kevin E. Johnson; Rich Saddler; Larry Essman; Robert Forrey; Ruth Marasek; Brenda Mccane; Janice Shanks; Vicci Felts; Sue Zoellner; Donna Voorheis; Debra Atkinson; Travis Smith; Tiffany T. Shanks; Tom Lowe; M. Trent Williams; Alan Barlow; Harald Daub; rduncan1@falcon1.net; jack.knapp@epa.ohio.gov
Subject:	Sewer Backups into our homes
Date:	Wednesday, July 29, 2015 12:26:41 PM
Attachments:	Portsmouth LTCP Phased Approach 04162012 letter from US EPA to city.pdf Portsmouth Ohio July 14 2015 storm aftermath.pdf

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Dear Administrator Hedman and others:

We residents have tried for years to get the city to enforce storm water regulations and devise and build projects to prevent sewers (combined in Portsmouth) from backing up in our houses . . . to no avail. Some people have suffered repeated backups since 1997. This is sewage and a direct violation of law. For many (22 houses and counting) we had combined sewer backups into our basements on Tuesday, July 14, 2015.

Yet the Portsmouth's city manager and others are trying to tell you and the pubic that it was, for the most part, clear water. This is NOT the case. We have attached photos and also refer you to Jane Murray's blog where you can see others (please scan down to see all):

http://wegottroublerighthereinrivercity.blogspot.com/

The City's Long Term Control Plan, revised October 2010, was approved by the Agency in April 2011. Then, new staff member Barbara Vantil came on board and subsequently allowed the city to revise Phase 1 projects. The attached letter from Dean Maraldo clearly states the purpose of Phase 1 to include at number 2): "designing and implementing projects to prevent releases of sewage from the Combined Sewer System into basements, potentially including the use of green infrastructure to reduce clear-water flow into the system;"

While trying to make just 60+ households to remove downspouts from their foundation drains, the city did NOTHING to require the hospital (Southern OH Medical Center) to re-direct storm water from their impervious surfaces and, in fact, allowed them to build ANOTHER parking lot just prior to the city manager coming on board! This was a direct violation, we contend, of your requirements of the City as per your attached letter.

Likewise, Hillview Retirement Center built additional impervious surfaces and neither they, the hospital nor the National Guard Armory (which built a parking lot where historically cars parked on grass) were required to retrofit at all. Taking their massive "clear water" out of the sewers or at least reducing it would make a huge impact we contend.

There have been dozens and dozens of communications, plans, revised plans, etc.

over the years that it becomes quite dizzying for us, but we hope your staff will take the time to review the entire file and help us. Mr. Maraldo's statement in the attached letter does say it all we believe:

"Specifically, Portsmouth apparently has Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) from the separate parts of the City of Portsmouth's sewer collections system and basement backups from the Combined Sewer System. Both SSOs and basement backups are strictly prohibited and unauthorized."

The operational directive put in place by former director Bramscher was the only thing that has saved us since 2008. Please require the city to reinstall the telemetry equipment that was part of this directive. The city took it down about one week before our July 12 horrible backups.

We will have more to communicate to you in the coming days and weeks.

Sincerely,

Ruth and Bob Marasek
Brenda McCane
Donna Voorheis
Larry Essman
Jane Murray

www.wegottroublerighthereinrivercity.blogspot.com