

## Chincoteague Sewer System

# Background:

In the 1980's, the US Coast Guard obtained a permit from the Department of Environmental Quality for the installation of a package sewer plant which would treat raw sewage and discharge the effluent into Chincoteague Channel. This was the first time that treated sewage had been legally discharged into the waters surrounding Chincoteague. Over the years, additional permits were obtained by various commercial enterprises and today 5 package plants are legally discharging treated effluent into Chincoteague Channel.

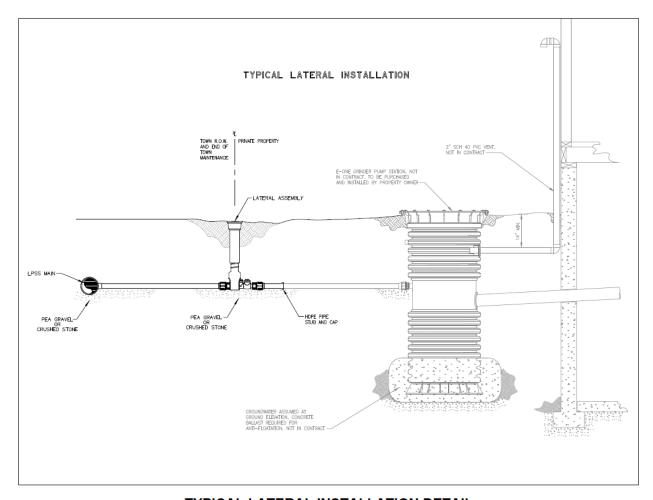


One of the highest capacity plants was developed by Bluewater Development for the Sunset Bay Condominium project. Since the plant had additional capacity, the developer sold that capacity to various businesses along Main St. Today, 10 businesses in addition to the Sunset Bay project are sending sewage to the Sunset Bay plants. In December of 2022, the Town of Chincoteague obtained, ownership of the packaged sewer plants at Sunset Bay from the original developer. Along with the plant ownership, the transfer agreement included a valid DEQ discharge permit that was not being utilized. This permit could provide an additional 37,000 gallons per day of sewage treatment. That same year, the Town entered into an agreement to transfer the Sunset Bay facility and additional permit to the Hampton Roads Sanitation District.

#### The Town's First Public Sewage System

By this agreement, HRSD has committed to replacing the existing aging plants with new higher capacity plants by December of 2026 and to use the additional permit to offer sewage treatment to Island businesses. For our part of this project, the Town of Chincoteague will build a low-pressure force main collection system along the Downtown Main St./Maddox Blvd. business districts to transport raw sewage to the new plants.

The configuration of the new system will require the use of individual pumps for each customer's connection. These pumps, located on the customer's property, will pump all sewage from the customer's business into the collection system and eventually to HRSD's treatment plant on Main Street. Business owners that decide to connect to the system will be required to furnish and install these pumps as well as provide associated operation and maintenance costs.



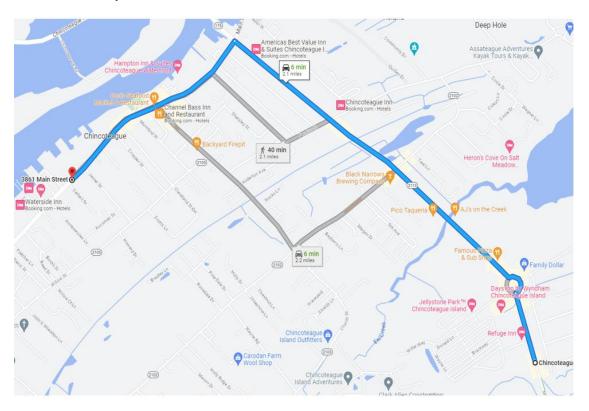
TYPICAL LATERAL INSTALLATION DETAIL

#### **Customer Costs:**

Since the Town will own and maintain the collection system, we will charge a connection fee to new customers along with an annual maintenance fee. These funds will be used to maintain the existing system and for future system expansions. Each Customer will be billed for treatment services by HRSD at their standard rate.

## System Route:

The route of the new system will proceed North from Sunset Bay along Main Street. It will turn onto Maddox Blvd. at the bridge and will ultimately end at the Island Museum. All businesses along this route will be eligible to connect, however since the current capacity is limited to 37,000 gpd, connections may be limited initially.



## **Future Expansions:**

In conjunction with the design of new plants, HRSD is applying for additional discharge permits for the Sunset Bay site. The maximum permitted discharge from this site has been determined to be 350,000 GPD. HRSD's initial upgrade of the plants will have a capacity of 130,000 gpd, however future planned upgrades will total 350,000 GPD. To maximize the use of these plants, the Town's collection system has also been designed for a maximum of 350,000 GPD.