

REGIONAL
WATER RESOURCE AGENCY



Engineering • Maintenance

2101 Grimes Avenue • Owensboro, Kentucky 42303

Phone: 270-687-8452 • FAX: 270-687-8454

Progress Through Growth | Protecting Your Environment

April 10, 2012

RE: Roof Downspout Disconnection

Dear Property Owner:

The Regional Water Resource Agency (RWRA) and the City of Owensboro (City) are jointly working to reduce flooding and contamination of stormwater in our community. As a part of this ongoing effort, RWRA has completed an inventory of properties in Owensboro that have roof downspouts that do not drain directly onto the ground or the “green space” of the property (green space is any area with vegetation that will absorb stormwater). Based on this inventory, our records show that your property(s) referenced on the envelop has downspouts that do not drain onto the green space.

Downspouts that are not directed to green space unnecessarily take up the limited capacity of the pipe and ditch networks within the community. This reduction in capacity creates additional flooding in the community, and increases overflows from the combined sewer system into the Ohio River.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that communities examine ways to reduce overflows and potential contact of contaminated waters to the public. One of the simplest ways to accomplish this is by eliminating connections from roof drains, sump pumps, foundation drains, etc. That is why we are currently asking you to redirect your roof downspouts onto green space at this time. In order to comply with EPA objectives, it is anticipated that in the near future that it will be a requirement to disconnect all existing downspouts that can be directed onto green space. Current local development standards require that all new roof downspouts be directed to the property’s green space.

If you would consider proceeding with this improvement(s) to the environment, prior to being mandated to do so, please go to RWRA’s website at rwra.org (and click on “Downspout Disconnection”) for instructions on how to properly disconnect your downspouts. We are asking all property owners that have downspouts connected to the sewer system, and have green space available, to have them removed and diverted onto the green space of your property some time during 2012.

This endeavor will significantly improve the environmental conditions associated with contamination and flooding within the community. Please contact Bryan Henderson (at 687-8452) if you need technical assistance to complete this work, and also when your project is completed so that our records can be updated.

Sincerely,

Dean Behnke, RWRA Engineer Joe Schepers, City Engineer Mayor Ron Payne