



THE HOW AND WHY OF CONNECTING TO THE SEWER

Last year the government built a public sewer along the coast between Hato and Punt Vierkant. In 2013 all households, companies and tourist accommodations in this area will be connected to the public sewer. With this folder the Public Entity Bonaire and the Water en Energie Company Bonaire (Water en Energiebedrijf Bonaire) inform you about the connection project.



Free connection

The sewer pipelines of the public sewer are located under the streets and roads at the coastal strip. The pipelines located in your garden or land that lead to the septic tank or cesspit will now have to be connected to the public sewer. This is not a voluntary matter, but a legal obligation. The obligation to connect to the public sewer is stipulated in the Island Decree wastewater Bonaire (Eilandsverordening afvalwater Bonaire), which is applicable since July 2012. Only if everyone participates, will we be able to achieve the purpose of the sewer project. Crucial is that waste water in the drainage area does not enter into the soil, groundwater or sea water.

Because it is a legal obligation to connect, the government finances the project and all connection costs will be paid for. This means that you will have no costs.

Organization

The Executive Council has set up a specific project organization for the connection project. This project organization is accommodated by the Water en Energiebedrijf Bonaire (WEB). The contractor who will execute the work is also positioned in the project team. This way there is one contact point for all your questions.

The project team can be reached by telephone at 782 6389 from Monday to Thursday between 8.30 AM and 10.30 AM and by e-mail: bonairesewageproject@hotmail.com

Connection Project

The actual connection of households or businesses to the public sewer started in March 2013 and will last until the end of the year.

SEWER PROJECT

The purification of our wastewater is necessary for the public health and for the health of our coral reefs and our economy.

We all know that wastewater contains bacteria that are damaging to humans and to nature. In addition, wastewater contains nutrients that are bad for the corals in our seas. Algae and seaweed grow just fine in it, and can therefore suffocate the corals. We must therefore make sure that along the coast no waste water gets into the soil, the groundwater or the sea.

Our coral reefs are among the most beautiful and richest in the Caribbean. We would like to keep it that way, since we are dependent as an island on the (diving) tourism. Our economy thrives for over eighty percent on tourism. A recent study shows that the economic value of Bonaire's nature annually amounts to more than 105 million dollars! Of this, the majority is attributed to the underwater park. Tourists spend annually 125 million dollar to come and see the nature on Bonaire.



Connecting in five steps

Connecting to the sewer system is simple. A connection consists of the junction between your private sewer and the public sewer. The project team places an inspection pit for future control at the place where the connection is made.

The project team is there to assist you during the connecting activities. Only five steps are required for connecting to the sewer system.

Step 1



Request

The project team makes an appointment with you for a first visit. During that consultation, you complete two forms: one in which you request the connection license and one in which you give the project team permission to enter your premises. You give the signed forms to the project team of the Public Entity and the WEB. They make sure that you receive a permit in time.

Please note: only applications submitted to the project team before October 31, 2013 are eligible for subsidy.

Step 2



Explore

The project team comes to your site to see what the situation is and to see where the existing sewer pipes lie. The team also does some light digging to determine how deep the sewer pipelines lie.

Step 3



Discuss

When the project team has all the necessary information, the team makes a draft of the connection. The project team will then contact you to discuss the design and the approach.

Step 4



Approve

If you agree with the design of the connection and the proposed approach, you sign the draft agreement.

Step 5



Perform

The project team will make a plan for carrying out the work, in consultation with you. By signing you give permission to perform the work and to make the con-



nection. Subsequently the project team will construct your connection as agreed upon.

The project team works carefully and neatly. It is not allowed for you to experience any damage as a result of the work done. Therefore the team takes pictures of the situation before and after the construction of the connectivity. Any possible problems will be solved in good consultation with you.

Harmful substances separately

Once the sewage system is activated, the wastewater goes through the public sewer to the sewage treatment plant on the plantation Aruba (LVV). The sewage treatment plant contains bacteria that eat away the pollution and in that way purifies the wastewater. The installation only works properly if we do NOT flush certain substances and products down the toilet or sink. Because those substances and products can kill bacteria

or cause blockages. Substances that should not enter the sewage system are oils and fats, chemicals and medications, glue and paint residues, sanitary towels, textiles and plastics. You can read more in the folder "Clean water for now and later." The folder is available free of cost at the offices of the WEB.

Clean water for now and later

Read the latest developments of the sewer and connection project in the newsletter AWA AWE (Water Today) that you receive by mail. We will also keep you informed by means of television, radio, paper, website and Facebook (kloaka.bonaire)..

This folder contains a very short and free representation of the legal provisions. In case of a dispute, you cannot appeal this publication. Always consult the laws and regulations in such a case.

COLOPHON

This is a publication of the Public Entity Bonaire, Water en Energiebedrijf Bonaire and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment.

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