

Main Line Video Inspection

(AKA: MAKIN' DIRTY MOVIES)

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Good day and welcome to part three of our Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) series entitled “Main Line Video Inspection”, or as I like to call it, makin’ dirty movies. First, a little recap. We’ve already discussed the importance of getting out into the collection system and popping manholes in order to identify areas of concern. This simple exercise helps to break the collection system down into somewhat smaller, more workable areas. It enables the various areas of the system to be prioritized so efforts to further identify I&I are directed to those problem areas and not the areas with normal flows. We have also examined smoke testing and its importance in the process. While smoke testing will not necessarily give you information on the condition of the mains, it is a great tool to identify lateral problems, storm sewer connections and illegal sump pump connections. We’ve even talked a little bit about flow monitoring. Now, please don’t get me wrong. I have nothing against flow monitoring. It plays an important part in the I&I evaluation process. It can yield very useful information if utilized properly. POP QUIZ: Flow monitoring should be used to (circle the correct answers) IDENTIFY or QUANTIFY, not IDENTIFY or QUANTIFY I&I issues. E-mail your answers to Grimm@nyruralwater.org and you could win.....the satisfaction of knowing you got the correct answer!

Alright, lets get into the dirty movies. In my opinion, dirty movies are the final step in the I&I investigation process. Once the system has been isolated, smoke tested to identify the obvious, and yes, flow monitored to quantify the flows from various areas (hint) it’s time to look at the unseen. Think of it as a colonoscopy of the sewer main. We are looking not only for the condition of the pipes, but also for any polyps that may exist. Those polyps could be root intrusions, broken or cracked pipes (which can cause back-ups) as well as, infiltration or inflow if bad enough, leaking and protruding lateral connections and grease build-up on the side walls. Laterals can also be inspected for evidence of leakage and, on occasion, sump pump connections can be verified without entering the homeowner’s house. A picture is worth a thousand words.

Dirty movies are also helpful in determining the appropriate corrective action to pursue. Whether a line is a candidate for slip lining, excuse me, trenchless technologies (I hate being politically correct. I know slip

lining is one form of trenchless technology, but, then again, you guys know what I’m talking about) or outright replacement can be determined by the video.

The reason I say dirty movies are the final step in I&I investigation is economical/financial. It is often expensive and time consuming to televise an entire collection system. I believe it is important to eventually have the entire collection system televised. In these tough economic times it may not be practical. If you need or want the entire collection system televised, contact one of the many companies around the state that offer this service. They have the equipment and the manpower to get the job done. New York Rural Water is there to assist you in televising select areas of the collection system. Identify, identify, identify. I can’t stress that enough. Oh, by the way, IDENTIFY!

One more thing before I go. Yeah, I know. I can hear the moans and groans and sighs. Don’t want to hear me? Turn the page. For the rest of you, it’s time to be proactive. Don’t wait for the consent order to land on the Mayor or Supervisor’s desk. You know if you have an I&I problem. If nothing else, get out there and pop some manholes and begin to isolate some areas. What was it we were taught in Basic Ops? DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT. The board may not know there is a problem. Enlighten them. Want to be a hero? Have all the information available. Do your homework. Start the I&I study before you are told to by the state. Have all the information available to turn over to your engineer. That much closer to being “shovel ready”. Don’t even get me started on that politically correct term. Call me. We’ll talk. (518) 828-3155 x 18. 💧

