



PERHAPS IT'S TIME

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Have you noticed your flows creeping up, even in the midst of these drought-like conditions? Be honest. You're not alone. Crumbling infrastructure has replaced sustainability as the new buzz word(s). Most collection systems are at or past their useful life with little or no maintenance performed over the years. Don't think just because you have precast manholes and PVC mains you are safe. I recently televised some sections of PVC mains where almost all the lateral taps were "break in" type taps at the top of the pipe. No tee wye fitting. No saddle tap. Just a hole in the top of the main with a pipe stuck into it. Think that doesn't leak?

Perhaps it's time to dust off one of the many I&I studies you have holding your bookshelves down and take a look at what and where issues were identified. Better yet, take a look at the oldest study and compare it to the most recent one. I'll bet you'll notice conditions have not improved between studies. Before you commission another I&I study, why not consider utilizing the information you already have? The information contained in those studies will help you to develop a strategy to further evaluate the collection system and develop a plan to mitigate the issues.

Smoke testing and CCTV inspections can be used to verify issues documented in past studies as well as to identify new issues. Comparing previous pump station run time hours with current ones will help in identifying and isolating problem areas. Using collection system maps (old, new, complete, incomplete, whatever you might have available), breaking down the collection system into "sewer sheds" or drainage areas will aid in the proper placement of flow meters that will in turn yield useful flow information. Re-inspect manholes that were rated marginal or lower. All these actions will help you to verify documented issues, identify emerging areas of concern and most importantly, prioritize areas of concern.

These past studies can contain valuable information on the condition of the collection system and hey, they're already paid for. Perhaps it's time to look at those old studies before deciding on conducting another one. Contact me at 518-828-3155 ext. 180 for more information. And please remember one thing. Building a bigger plant to handle the I&I isn't always the answer. At the end of the day, you will still have an I&I issue that will need to be addressed. Cheers! 💧💧