

CHAPTER 7

LONG-TERM VALUE OF GOOD MAINTENANCE

Proactive Sewer Maintenance

A proactive sewer maintenance program is a proven cost saving venture when compared to a reactive maintenance program. Proactive programs reduce emergency construction costs as well as reducing SSOs, community inconvenience and governmental liabilities.

The long-term benefits of good maintenance are well-documented and well-known. When it comes to applying principles of a good maintenance program to collection systems, the value to a community cannot be ignored. In many communities the collection system represents one of the largest and most important community assets. Planned, professional maintenance is not only fiscally responsible, it is also environmentally sound.

Specifically, in sanitary sewers, a good maintenance and inspection program is a critical element in ensuring that they continue to provide the hydraulic capacity needed to serve as intended.



Figure 29: Operations and maintenance staff should be trained in various options for installing laterals and repairing lines.

Pipelines made of vitrified clay pipe give maintenance professionals the ability to:

- Clean aggressively
- Jet at any angle and at pressures of 5,000 psi with flows exceeding 125 gpm
- Use mechanical cleaning tools including rodders, flails, root saws and grinders

No other pipe material offers maintenance professionals the same options or the same level of control when it is time to clean and inspect a pipeline that has been in-service for 50, 60 or even more than 100 years. Even most of the steam-pressed, glazed, terra cotta clay pipe, manufactured before there were ASTM standards, can withstand the stresses imposed by “modern” cleaning methods and tools.



Figure 30: The best long-term value is realized when crews are trained to take full advantage of the cleaning options that are only available in VCP systems.