

Brooklyn wrestles with wastewater issues

In the ongoing dilemma about what to do about the raw sewage in the Gowanus Canal that runs through South Brooklyn, the city has determined it will repair the flushing tunnel that pumps water from the Buttermilk Channel and turn it off for two years as part of a \$300-million cleanup.

To compensate for the deactivated flushing tunnel, the city will attempt to reduce the amount of untreated waste in the Gowanus Canal when heavy rains overflow the aging sewers, otherwise known as combined sewer overflows (CSOs). The interim system is expected to be in operation from 2009 through 2011.

This is all part of a vision of the Bloomberg Administration for turning parts of the Gowanus area, formerly an industrial hub, into a residential link between Park Slope and Carroll Gardens.

Repairing the flushing tunnel — which was built in the early part of the last century, failed in the 1960s and was only turned on again in 1999 — is part of the Department of Environmental Protection plans. The agency also wants to finish other extensive work on Brooklyn's wastewater infrastructure by 2013 that will reduce the hundreds of millions of gallons of raw effluence annually poured into canal by 34 percent.

The project also includes: rehabilitation of a pump station; adding screens to underground pipes to block trash; and continuing a skimmer program to retrieve floating detritus.

Swimming still won't be allowed because periodic CSOs will not be eliminated. To do that would cost billions. Instead, the more-sanitized Gowanus Canal will meet the criteria for safe kayaking and fish procreation. Raw sewage will still be dumped into the canal.

Enterprise to build Texas-based supply laterals

Enterprise Products Partners L.P. announced that it will construct a pipeline that will transport new supplies of natural gas produced from the Barnett Shale in Tarrant and Denton counties in Texas to the Sherman Extension pipeline.

The 178-mile Sherman Extension is a major expansion of En-

Michels Helps Restore Power After Hurricanes

Michels' crews worked 16 hours a day, seven days a week to help restore power to several million people still without power in Louisiana and Texas following Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

On Labor Day, 78 crewmembers from various Michels' jobs throughout the Midwest headed to Louisiana to help restore power. Less than two weeks later, Hurricane Ike hit and Michels sent 30 additional crews from Washington and California jobs to Texas and Kentucky.

"The devastation and conditions are indescribable," said Michels' Power Superintendent Eric Hoffman. "Businesses are obviously out of power, which means food and water can't be found just around the corner, and there are people who don't have transportation to get to the nearest FEMA location for help. Our crews gave away their ice, water and boxed lunches to people who hadn't had power for more than two weeks."

Michels was part of a restoration team trying to return power to all customers as fast as possible, but the work they complet-



ed was only a temporary solution. Power contractors could spend up to eight months swapping the temporary connections for permanent ones.

Michels Corporation is a utility contractor offering construction, engineering and procuring services to keep pace with the growing demand in the energy, transportation, telecommunications and utility construction industries.

terprise's Texas intrastate natural gas pipeline system that provides additional transportation capacity for production from the Barnett Shale and north Texas region. It is expected to be completed shortly.

To accommodate growing natural gas production from the Barnett Shale, Enterprise will build a 40-mile supply lateral that will extend from the Trinity River Basin north of Arlington to an interconnect with the Sherman Extension pipeline near Justin, TX. This pipeline will consist of 30- and 36-inch pipeline designed to provide up to 1 Bcf/d of natural gas takeaway capacity for producers in Tarrant and Denton counties. The pipeline will have a lateral to provide transportation services for natural gas produced from the Newark East field in Wise County. These pipelines are anchored by long-term agreements with major producers and are expected to be in service by the third quarter.

Buffalo suburb pays \$3M in water/sewer projects

A \$1.5 million water line project and another more than \$1.7 million engineering project for sewer line improvements were approved by the town of Tonawanda's city council, a suburb of Buffalo, NY.

Improvements will include the replacement of 5,200 feet of waterline with fire hydrants and valves. Repairs to sidewalks, lawns and pavement in the areas where crews have to dig up the lines are also included in the project, funded by a monthly \$1.70 capital improvement fee added to town water bills earlier this year.

The construction phase is expected to begin next spring. Early next year, the engineering phase of the larger sewer project will start examining what has to be done to replace the main lines that run to the Parker-Fries pumping station, which is the town's largest.

The construction phase of the sewer line replacement won't start until the spring of 2010 and could run from five to seven years, depending on how evaluations go after each part's completion and how well the plans match up with existing lines. The sewer project will eventually replace 19,000 feet of main sewer and another 20,000 feet of adjoining pipe.

KMP and Energy Transfer to develop \$1.3B pipeline

Kinder Morgan Energy Partners and Energy Transfer Partners have entered into a 50/50 joint venture, Fayetteville Express Pipeline (FEP), to develop a new pipeline. The 187-

mile pipeline will originate in Conway County, AR, continue eastward through White County, AR, and terminate at an interconnect with Trunkline Gas Company in Quitman County, MS. The pipeline will have an initial capacity of 2 Bcf/d. Pending necessary regulatory approvals, the approximately \$1.3 billion pipeline project is expected to be in service by late 2010 or early 2011. FEP has secured binding 10-year commitments of 1.575 MMDth/d including 1.2 MMDth/d from Southwestern Energy Services, a unit of Southwestern Energy Co., and 375,000 Dth/d with an option for an additional 125,000 Dth/d from Chesapeake Energy Marketing, an affiliate of Chesapeake Energy Corp.

Construction education scholarship winners named

Helping teens embark on a construction industry career is the aim of the ConstructMyFuture.com program, which has named the latest winners of its annual scholarships. The program is a cooperative effort of the Associated Equipment Distributors Foundation (AEDF), Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) and

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Associated General Contractors of America (AGC).

Teens from Minnesota, Pennsylvania and South Carolina have each earned \$1,000 scholarships to be used for construction-focused education. They are:

Andrew Retzlaff of Mankato, MN, to attend South Central College for heavy construction equipment technician, focused on diesel mechanics and hydraulics;

William Gumbert of Allenport, PA, to attend Penn College of Technology for technology management and heavy equipment technician/operator, and;

John Lynch of Fort Mill, SC, to attend Clemson University for construction management.

ConstructMyFuture.com scholarships are available to students and construction industry professionals, with the funds to be used for higher-education tuition or the purchase of tools to improve worker productivity. Scholarship applications are evaluated based on applicants' essays, school transcripts and personal references. In 2009, due to the generosity of Kobleco Cranes, ConstructMyFuture.com will be offering 10 scholarships (\$1,000 each).

For more information, contact AEM's Erin Babcock (phone 414-274-0657, email ebabcock@aem.org) or go online at www.constructmyfuture.com.

City to keep eye on sewer system with monitoring technology

New sewer monitoring technology will allow Chico, CA, to keep a better eye on its sewer system and better plan ahead, according to interim Assistant City Manager Dennis Beardsley.

The city of Chico installed nine flow meters at strategic locations throughout the city's sanitary sewer system. The meters will monitor the amount of water going through the sewer system, without having to pay someone to monitor the sewers during winter rainstorms.

The purpose of the meters is to monitor flows during regular peak use and trace groundwater infiltration during storms. That way the city can know if rainwater gets into the sewer system. The intent is to keep rainwater out because it creates more volume at the water treatment plant.

The monitors are powered by solar panels and send data using cellular telephone technology. They will be installed by Utility Systems Science and Software Inc. of San Diego.

Wabash gets go-ahead for sewer plan

After years of waiting, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management finally told the city of Wabash what it needed to do with regards to its stormwater and sanitary sewers.

The Wabash Board of Public Works and Safety gave Mayor Bob Vanlandingham the agreed order which gives the city two years to revise its original plan, submitted by the Copeland administration in 2003. Wabash will then have 20 years to implement it.

The mayor was quick to point out that the work would involve millions of dollars and would almost certainly result in higher sewer bills in the near future to build up funds for the work to be done over the next 20 years.

"It would be irresponsible for us not to be proactive and start putting money aside for these projects," Vanlandingham said at Wednesday's meeting.

However, he also noted that several projects included in the 2003 plan have already been completed or are in the works. City officials are now in the preliminary stages of fixing three of the city's eight combined sewer overflows (CSOs).

In Memoriam

Sidney R. Snider passed away on Sept. 27, in Clearwater, FL, at the age of 94. Snider served as president of the Distribution Contractors Association in 1968. He retired from the Hallen Construction Co. in 1977 as executive vice president. Snider is survived by his wife of 67 years, Rita; a son, Richard; a daughter, Barbara and her husband Herb, and two grandsons, Robert and John. Condolences may be sent to Rita at: Summerville at Beckett Lake, 2155 Montclair Rd., Apt. #324, Clearwater, FL 33763.

John McCall, 85, former president of J. McCall Ltd., died Oct. 12, in Spirit Lake, IA. The company was a former Associate Member of the Pipe Line Contractors Association. Cards and condolences may be sent to his wife, Phyllis at P.O. Box 61, Spirit Lake, IA 51360. ■

Austin's Trenchless Projects Discussed At GCTA



Gopal Guthikonda, assistant director of the Engineering Services Program with the Austin Water Utility, Austin, TX, was the guest speaker at the bi-monthly meeting sponsored by the Gulf Coast Trenchless

Association (GCTA) held on Oct. 8, in Houston. Guthikonda is responsible for providing engineering support functions for the execution of all Austin's water and wastewater improvements and is responsible for the implementation of the Water and Wastewater Capital Improvement Program.

Guthikonda is also the program manager for the \$400 Million Austin Clean Water Program, a wastewater pipeline replacement and rehabilitation program initiated by the city of Austin to meet a federal mandate.

Guthikonda holds bachelors and masters degrees in civil engineering and is a Registered Professional Engineer in Texas. He has more than 28 years of experi-

ence in the water and wastewater industry, and has worked in various capacities for the Austin Water Utility since 1987. Before joining the Utility, he worked for consulting engineering firms designing wastewater collection systems and treatment plants.

Topics discussed included the EPA administrative order to eliminate Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) from the wastewater collection system. The activities to improve the wastewater collections system include infiltration/inflow, sanitary sewer evaluation surveys, as well as subsequent design and construction necessary to improvements in the wastewater collection system.

"We've spent \$400 million towards the EPA mandate issued to the city of Austin in 1999 to correct our overflow system," says Guthikonda. "The city is required to be in compliance by June 2009 and we are on schedule to complete them. We've eliminated the SSOs and have identified and completed 14 tasks with about only five more projects to finish."

A five-year Water Plan and Wastewater Plan are in effect. According to reported

figures provided by Guthikonda, Austin is planning to upgrade the transmission, distribution, pump stations, reservoirs, utilities, roads, and rehab the water system for the water program. More work will be done for the wastewater program that will include: line rehab and collection system improvements; the North Austin Wastewater Interceptor; the Onion Creek Interceptor; and upgrades to the Seaholm site.

Of interest to attendees was how Austin is planning to use trenchless technologies to accomplish these tasks.

Guthikonda says, "The city prefers to use lining, spot repairs and CIPP due to the rocky soils in the area. We also use manhole rehabilitation and clean-out installation."

For more information regarding the upcoming the GCTA's MVP Awards Luncheon or the Golf Tournament at UCT San Antonio in January or general information regarding the GCTA, visit the group's website at www.gctaonline.org, or contact Ginger Coleman, GCTA administrator, (713) 839-0808, e-mail ginger@amchouston.com.