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Contact: Public Relations, Marketing, and Media @ 803.545.3020

Improvements to Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure Now Underway along Columbia Canal

REHABILITATION OF 48" 54" AND 60" GRAVITY SEWER LINES
CITY OF COLUMBIA CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN # SS7073

Contractors are assembling a temporary bypass line to reroute flow from a sanitary sewer line near Elmwood Cemetery along the Broad and Congaree Rivers, while improvements are made to those lines.

Two 24 inch High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipes will be heat welded, resulting in a continuous fused pipeline with no mechanical joints. During construction, the pipes will be visible on the surface of the water, but will be just under the surface when in use.

HDPE is commonly used in sensitive natural gas and mining applications. Contractors will pressure test the system daily and monitor the length of the bypass continuously for the duration of the project. City of Columbia Construction Management staff will oversee the project.

The temporary pipes (see attached photo) will carry flow from the North Columbia Pump Station, near Lucius Road, downstream along the length of the Columbia Canal to Gervais Street. From there, the lines will run above ground parallel to the existing lines undergoing repairs. The bypass will terminate at the West Columbia Pump Station, which is located just south of the Blossom Street Bridge on the Congaree River.

The bypass lines will run approximately 16,000 feet and carry between 10 and 26 million gallons of flow per day.

This will allow necessary repairs to be made to a gravity sewer line that was constructed in the 1970s. Work will include application of an epoxy fiberglass lining in 46 manholes and rehabilitation of approximately 14,000 feet of gravity sewer pipe. Once completed, the bypass system will be flushed and dismantled.

This unconventional, but innovative solution will minimize a potentially disruptive process spanning two major traffic arteries: Gervais and Blossom Streets.

Installation of the bypass is projected to take three months. Once the bypass system is in place, rehabilitation of the old lines will take six months. Dismantling the bypass will take two months; all work should be complete by June, 2011.

This project is one of several improvements to Columbia's sanitary sewer infrastructure currently underway or pending.

For more information and ongoing project updates, please visit www.columbiasc.net/Engineering.

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