

MEMORANDUM

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT



City on the Gulf
Venice, Florida

TO: Martin Black, AICP, ICMA-CM, City Manager

FROM: R. Christopher Sharek, PE, Utilities Manager

DATE: July 5, 2005

SUBJECT: July 3rd Force Main Repair near Patches Restaurant

Marty, as we sent information to Pam Johnson last week, the Utilities Department was notified of a sinkhole in the Patches Restaurant western parking lot at approximately 10:30 am, July 1, 2005. Due to the location of the sinkhole, we believed groundwater was entering the neighboring manhole. After several attempts to verify this with dye, this did not appear to be the problem. We barricaded the area to prevent any traffic problems. We decided to hire a contractor for this emergency repair due to the equipment needed and the fact that we did not know what we were in for once the excavation was made.

Since the city does not have a utility contractor of record, I contacted the city's stormwater contractor of record, Jody with Robinson's Underground. He was out of town and his office did not return my phone call. Therefore, I contacted DeJonge Excavating knowing they did have a contract with Sarasota County for emergency repair work. After a couple of phone calls with Sarasota County personnel, I confirmed with Field Operations Manager John Czahoroski that their contract with DeJonge contained language to allow the city to utilize these services. Therefore, we contacted Henry DeJonge and scheduled the repair.

On Friday afternoon, DeJonge installed wellpoints around the perimeter of the site to dry the ground as the pipeline was estimated at 8-10 feet deep.

On Saturday night, I arrived on-site at about 10:30 pm. We discovered that the top of a tee had been corroded away and we had some spillage of wastewater from this force main into the surrounding soil. DeJonge had set up a mud-hog in gravel near the tee to pull the spilled wastewater and pump it into the manhole.





During the operation, the entire wastewater flow from the island had to be diverted from the repair site. All the wastewater on the island was diverted to centrally located Lift Station #1. It was then loaded onto tanker trucks and hauled to a manhole downstream of the repair site. This operation involved several utility mechanics checking lift stations throughout the night on the island making sure no wastewater overflows occurred at the other lift stations. Tim Merritt manned the pump at Lift Station #1 as we loaded about 10 tanker trucks throughout the operation.

Around 2:45 am, Sunday Morning, the repair was completed. The tee was replaced with a 90-degree fitting as the line to the north was an old abandoned force main. This pipeline was installed in 1989 and due to the turbulence in the pipeline, the corrosive gasses of the wastewater deteriorated the tee. Normal wastewater collection operations were restored at approximately 3:45 am.



Cc: Pam Johnson, Public Information Officer, *via E-mail*
Gerald Boyce, OMI Project Director, *via E-mail*
Michele Duggan, FDEP, *via E-mail*