



## *Rethinking Collection System Cleaning Using Acoustic Inspection*

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## *Rethinking Collection System Cleaning Using Acoustic Inspection*

- ▶ What is the Problem?
- ▶ Acoustic Inspection
  - What is it? / How does it work?
  - CMU/InfoSense Field Trial Brief Summary
- ▶ Condition Based Maintenance (CBM) for Collection System Cleaning
  - Concept / Trade-Offs
  - Scenarios

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## *What is the Problem?*

- ▶ Overflows are a Symptom – Not the Problem

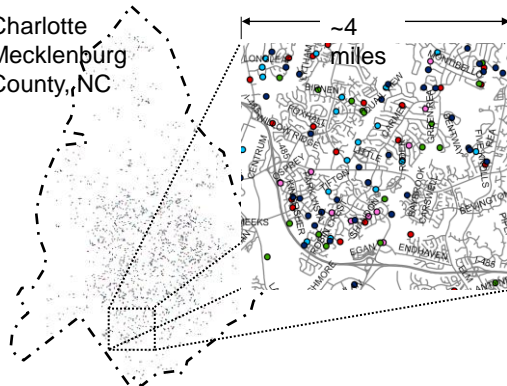


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## *Problem – Condition Information*

Charlotte  
Mecklenburg  
County, NC

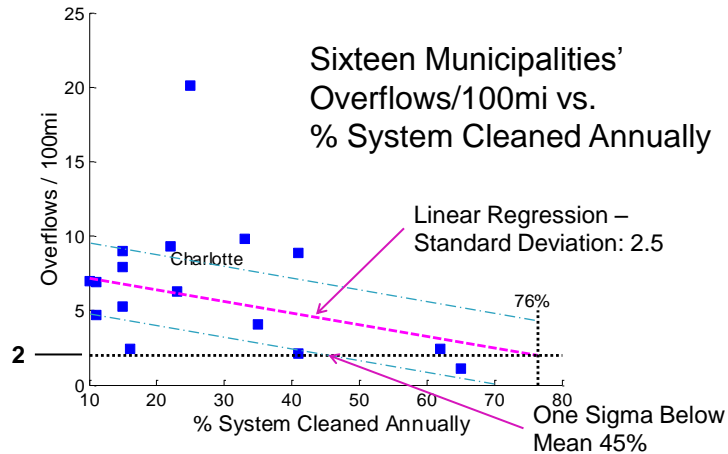


Five Year Overflow Record –  
Different Color / Year

- ▶ Overflow locations – “Random”
- ▶ Historical GIS – Helpful – But Insufficient
- ▶ Where & When to Deploy Cleaning Resources
- ▶ Cost Effective & Timely Condition Information

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## How Much Cleaning is Required?



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## Condition Based Maintenance (CBM) - Collection System Cleaning

### ▸ Requirements

- Determine Where & When to Deploy Cleaning Resources
- Cost Effective – Inspection Cost << Cleaning Cost

### ▸ Benefit

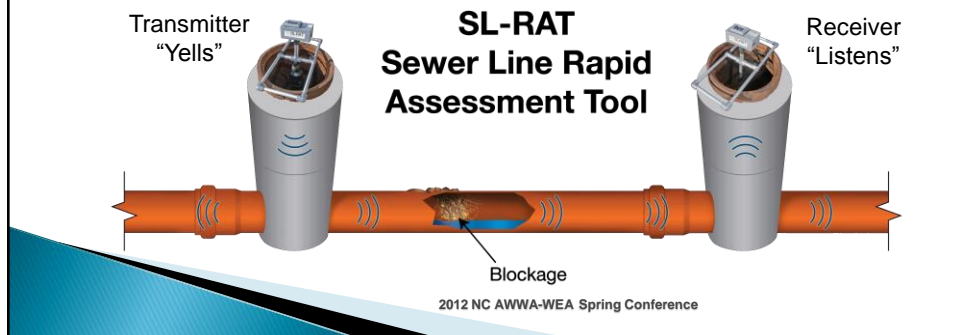
- Reduce Wasted Cleaning Effort
- Improved Performance

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## *Acoustic Inspection*

- ▶ How It Got Started –  
UNCC & CMU “Brainstorming” Session
- ▶ Sewer Lines – Natural Acoustic Wave Guides
- ▶ Obstructions – Acoustic Signals Absorb & Reflect
- ▶ Diagnostic Tool – Evaluates Aggregate Blockage



## *SL-RAT Key Features for Supporting Collection System Cleaning - CBM*



- ▶ No Flow Contact / No  
Confined Space Entry
- ▶ Low Cost-Pennies/foot
- ▶ Rapid Onsite Results –  
Under 3 min./segment
- ▶ Portable < 30 lbs
- ▶ GIS Integration – GPS  
Enabled
- ▶ Archive Pipe Segment  
Blockage Assessment

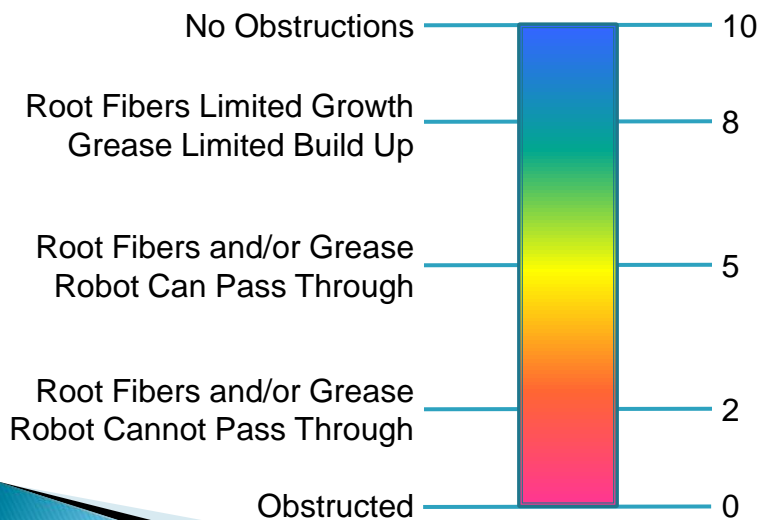
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## *Blockage Assessment Performance?*

- ▶ Two Central Questions Performance & Operational Cost
  - Evaluated During 2010 CMU / InfoSense SL-RAT Field Trial
  - NC-AWWA 2010 Spring Fling & Annual Meeting
- ▶ Blockage Assessment Performance Evaluation Based on Comparison with CCTV

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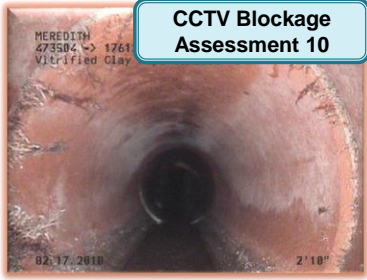
## *CCTV Blockage Assessment*



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# CCTV Blockage Assessment

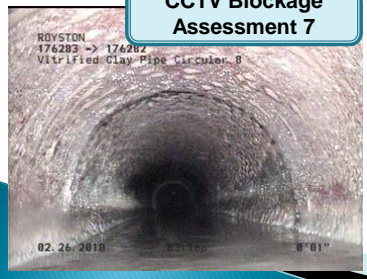


**CCTV Blockage Assessment 10**



**CCTV Blockage Assessment 5**

CCTV Robot was Able to Pass Through Root Fibers



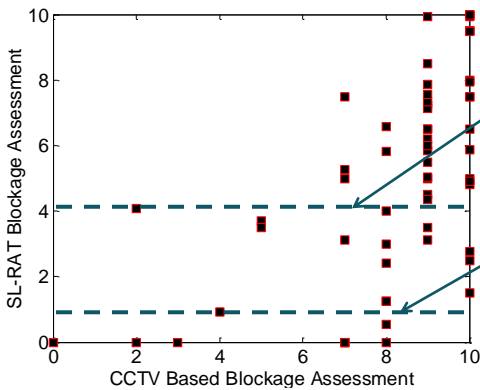
**CCTV Blockage Assessment 7**



**CCTV Blockage Assessment 2**

CCTV Robot was Not Able to Pass Through Obstruction

# SL-RAT & CCTV Comparison



**SL-RAT Standard Threshold**

- 61% Reduction in Cleaning
- All Pipes Requiring Cleaning are Cleaned

**SL-RAT Critical Threshold**

- 85% Reduction in Cleaning
- Identify Pipes in Critical Need of Further Action

- ▶ CCTV & SL-RAT Acoustic Inspect >50% Pipe Segments Did Not Require Cleaning
- ▶ SL-RAT Assessment Correlated with CCTV
- ▶ SL-RAT Provides Conservative Assessment

## Cost Evaluation Assumptions

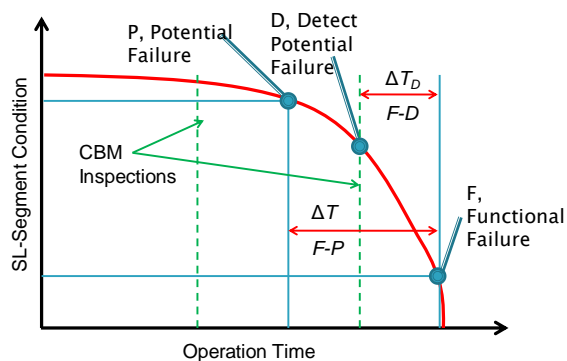
- ▶ Typical Industry Values : Cleaning Crew \$1.00/foot
- ▶ Estimated SL-RAT Inspection Crew

Number of Crew Members	2
Annual Fully Loaded Salary Per Crew Member	\$68,000
Annual Equipment Costs (Including Truck & SL-RAT)	\$24,000
Work Days Per Year	251
Onsite Work Hours Per Day	5.5
SL- RAT Average Number of Segments Inspected Per Hour	6
Average Sewer Line Segment Length in feet	220
Cost Per Foot	\$0.09/ft

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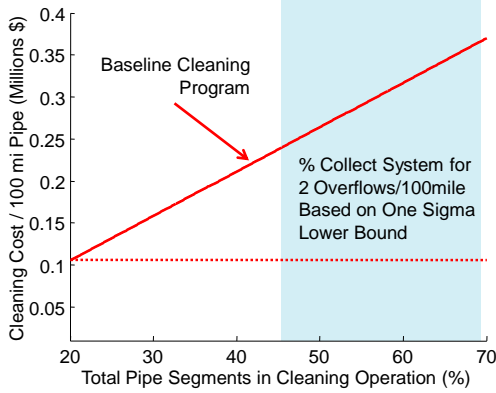
## Collection System Cleaning - CBM



- ▶ Resource Efficiency Utilization Through Condition Assessment
- ▶ Trade-Off – Inspection vs. Cleaning

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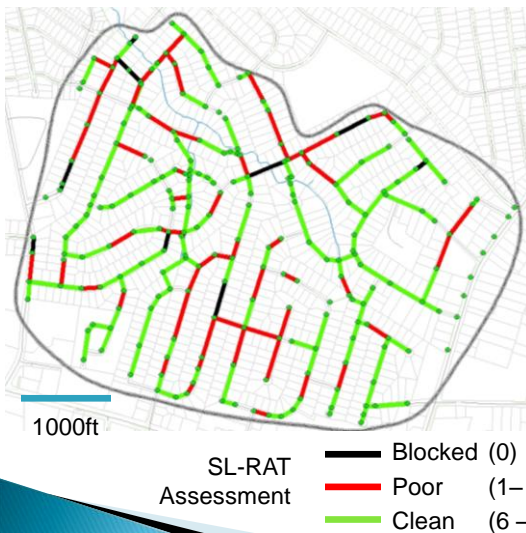
## Baseline Cleaning Program



- ▶ Cleaning Program – Current Practice
- ▶ Cost Model
  - Cleaning Cost / Foot \$1
- ▶ Performance Model
  - Linear Regression for 16 Municipalities Overflows vs %System Cleaned
- ▶ Benchmark
  - 2 Overflows/100mi
  - 45% System Cleaned – Low Confidence
  - 75% System Cleaned – Modest Confidence

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## CBM Cleaning Program I



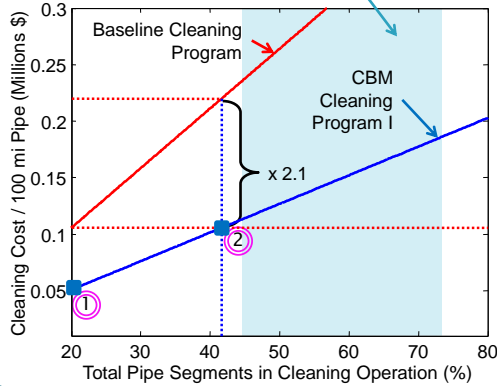
- ▶ SL-RAT Inspection Prior to Cleaning
- ▶ Only Clean Segments Below Standard Threshold
- ▶ Illustrative Case
  - 52,000 ft Basin
  - 30,000 ft Assessed by SL-RAT as “Clean”
  - 22,000 ft Below Threshold & Cleaned
  - 58% Reduction in Cleaning

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## CBM Cleaning Program I

% Collect System for 2 Overflows/100mi  
Based on One Sigma Lower Bound

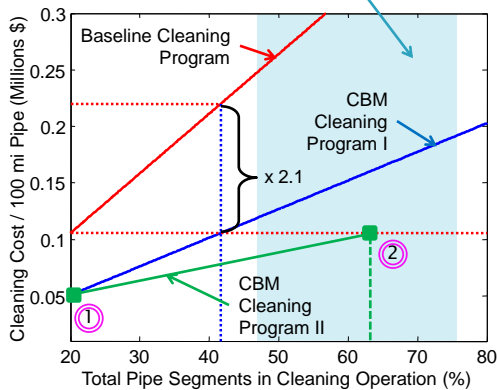


- ▶ Evaluate CBM Cost/Performance
  - Use CMU/InfoSense Field Study Results
  - SL-RAT Cost/Ft \$0.09
- ▶ Point "1"
  - 20% SL-RAT Acoustic Inspection
  - ~7.8% Cleaned
- ▶ Point "2"
  - 42% SL-RAT Acoustic Inspection
  - ~16.6% Cleaned

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## CBM Cleaning Program II

% Collect System for 2 Overflows/100mi  
Based on One Sigma Lower Bound



- ▶ Prioritize – Target High Risk Segments
- ▶ Point "1"
  - Same CBM Program I
  - 20% Acoustic Inspection
  - ~7.8% Cleaned
- ▶ Point "2"
  - 63% Acoustic Inspection
  - ~14.1% Cleaned
  - ~9.5% Evaluated as Critical

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## *Summary*

- ▶ Collection System Cleaning Operations Condition Based Management (CBM) Benefits
  - Cleaning Resources Efficiently Deployed
  - Reduces Non-Productive Cleaning Effort
  - Prioritizes Cleaning & Provides Flexibility in Balancing Risk with Cost
- ▶ Acoustic Inspection Enabler for CBM Cleaning Program
  - Inspection Cost  $\ll$  Cleaning Cost
  - Assessment Correlated with Cleaning Requirements