Horizontal Overflow Connection Intercepts, Stores, and Conveys Overflows

The Rochester Pure Waters District has constructed a system of storage and conveyance tunnels to intercept, store and convey overflows from existing combined sewers in Rochester, New York. Construction of the overflow structures which intercept the flows in the existing system typically involves excavation in the street to build concrete structures containing one or more overflow wires, and installation of a pipe to the drop shaft to take the flows to the tunnel. This involves relocation and/or support of other utilities in the street which is time consuming and expensive, frequently results in service interruptions and nuisance, and presents hazards and potential liability. On the recent State-Mt. Hope Tunnel project, two of the overflow structures were to be built around existing deep sewers that ran under streets literally filled with buried utilities above the deep sewers. Recognizing the costs, inconvenience, and risks involved in relocating these utilities, it was determined that a trenchless horizontal connection at these locations could be made by tunneling from the gate structures located in parking lots off the right-of-way to the main sewers. This tunneling avoided disruption, reduced costs, and kept the streets open to traffic.

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