

NJWEA - Winter Tech Transfer 2026 Cleaning and Inspection

 InfoSense

Cleaning the Right Pipe at the Right Time Using Acoustics

Heather McNeil
hmcneil@infosense.com
(207)-459-4834




3/13/2026

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Agenda

1. About InfoSense
2. Traditional Maintenance
3. Acoustic Inspection
4. Comprehensive Condition-Based Maintenance
5. Benefits and Case Studies





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About InfoSense

Who We Are

- Manufacturer of the Sewer Line Rapid Assessment Tool
 - Designed and built in Charlotte, North Carolina
- Our mission is to help municipalities optimize their gravity sewer maintenance




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About InfoSense

What We Do

- We help municipalities solve the biggest pains of sewer maintenance
 - Backups and Overflows
 - Manpower and Hiring
 - Asset Failure and H2S
 - Inflow and Infiltration (I&I)
 - Data and Crew Management



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About InfoSense

Who We Work With

Local to the Mid-Atlantic

Charlotte Water, North Carolina	Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority (AR)	St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District (MO)	Citizens Energy Group (IN)	City of Mountlake Terrace (WA)	City of Irving (TX)	Jefferson County (AL)	Santiago (Chile)
Baltimore County, Maryland	Jonesboro City Water & Light (AR)	City of Green Bay (WI)	Montgomery County (OH)	City of Pullman (WA)	New Braunfels Utilities (TX)	Augusta-Richmond County (GA)	Regional Municipality of Halton (Ontario)
Lancaster Area Sewer Authority, Pennsylvania	Norwalk (CT)	City of Iowa City (IA)	Carmel Wastewater Utilities (IN)	City of Cheney (WA)	City of Santa Barbara (CA)	JEK (FL)	Singapore PUB
Town of Cary, North Carolina	Russellville Water and Sewer (AR)	Village of Schaumburg (IL)	Evansville Water & Sewer Utility (IN)	City of Gig Harbor (WA)	City of Galveston (TX)	Hillsborough County (FL)	Toronto Water (Ontario, Canada)
City of Virginia Beach, Virginia	City of Fort Smith (AR)	City of Springfield (IL)	Sanitation District No. 1 (KY)	City of Bothell (WA)	City of Laguna Beach (CA)	Peachtree City (GA)	City of Mesa Water Resources (AZ)
Fredericksburg, Virginia	City of New Bedford (MA)	City of Elmhurst (IL)	Louisville MSD (KY)	City of Snomohish (WA)	County of Lake (CA)	City of Cocoa (FL)	Castle Rock Water (CO)
New Castle County, Delaware	Rogers Water Utilities (AR)	City of Manhattan (KS)	City of Lafayette (IN)	Douglas County Sewer District (WA)	San Rafael (CA)	Gainesville Regional Utilities (FL)	City of Sarasota Springs (UT)
Gastonia, North Carolina	American Water-Fort Belvoir VA	City of Norwich (CT)	City of Sioux Falls (SD)	Richmond Sanitary District (IN)	City of Westport (WA)	City of Tulsa (OK)	Ash Creek Special Service District (UT)
City of Durham, North Carolina	City of Raleigh NC	Salt Lake City (UT)	Village of Bartlett (IL)	City of Portage (MI)	City of Poughbo (WA)	City of Mandfield (TX)	Layton City (UT)
Town of Purcellville, Virginia		City of Topeka (KS)	Fort Wayne (IN)	Alderwood Water & Wastewater District (WA)	Houston (TX)	Greenville (SC)	City of Saskatoon (SK)

...and over 1,000 more around the world

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About InfoSense

Transitioning to Condition-Based Maintenance

Reactive or Rotation-Based Maintenance Protocol

➔

Condition-Based Cleaning Maintenance Protocol


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Traditional Maintenance

Common Protocol For Maintaining Sewer Lines

Time-Based or Rotation-Based Cleaning Protocols

- Cleaning and inspection on set timeline
- Select neighborhood and deploy resources

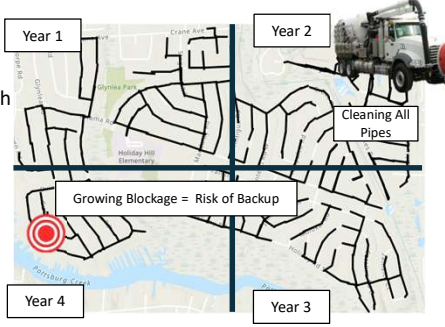


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Traditional Maintenance

Issues with Time-Based Cleaning Protocol

- Clean every pipe segment regardless of its condition
- Not viewing entire sewer system each year
- Requires a significant amount of water to clean lines
- Uses expensive equipment with high emissions



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Acoustic Inspection

Acoustic Inspection Overview

Sewer Line Rapid Assessment Tool

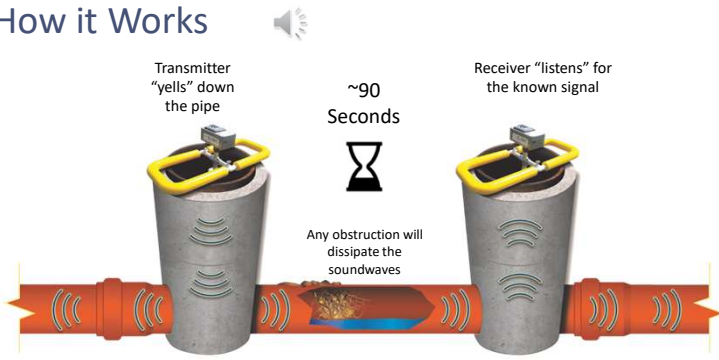
- Released in 2012
 - Won WEF Innovative Technology Award
- Uses acoustics to assess blockages
- Experienced by over 2,000 utilities worldwide
 - 600 million feet (170M meters) assessed
- Endorsed by EPA
- Holds ASTM Standard F3220-17 for use



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Acoustic Inspection

How it Works



Transmitter "yells" down the pipe

Receiver "listens" for the known signal

~90 Seconds

Any obstruction will dissipate the soundwaves

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Acoustic Inspection

Scoring and Visual Comparison

Excess Flow

- Small root fibers
- Limited grease build up

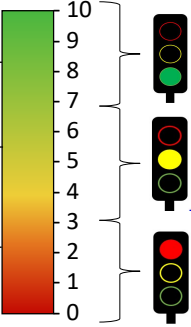
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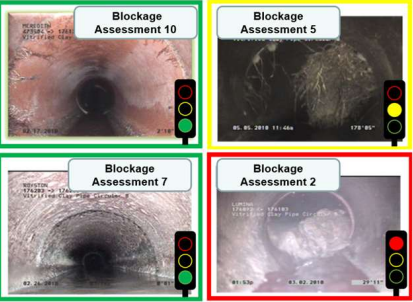
- Roots and/or grease
- Robot can pass through

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- Significant root intrusion
- Grease buildup
- Robot cannot pass through

Obstructed






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Condition Based Maintenance

Condition-Based Maintenance

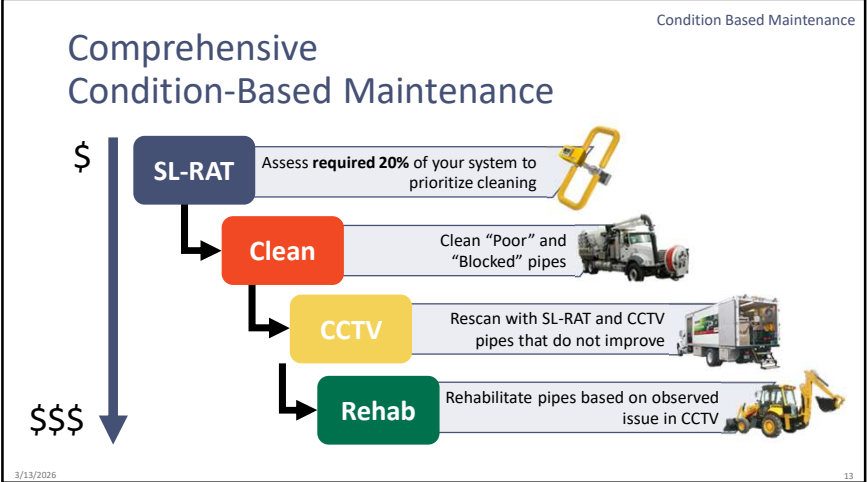


Send Cleaning Trucks Based on Condition Assessment

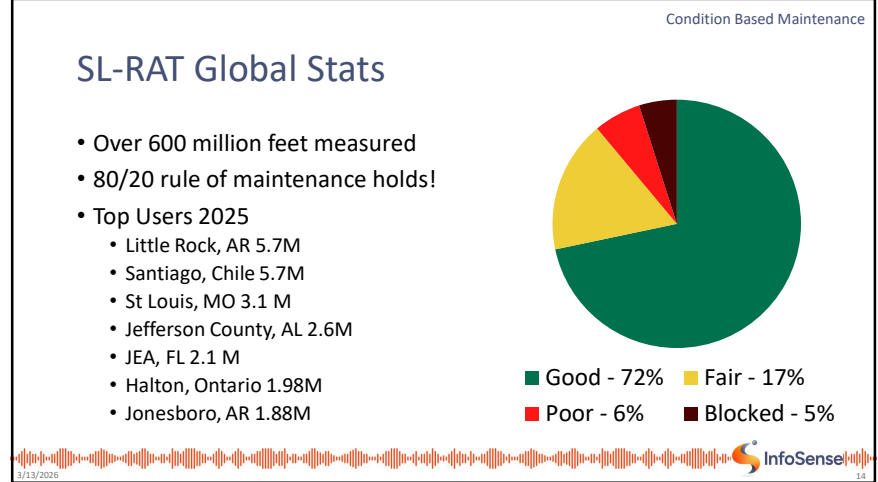
Real SL-DOG Data from JEA, Florida

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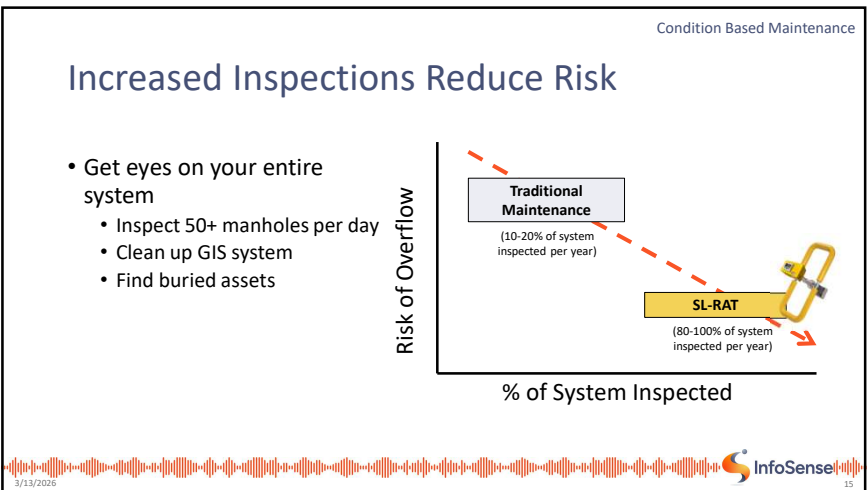
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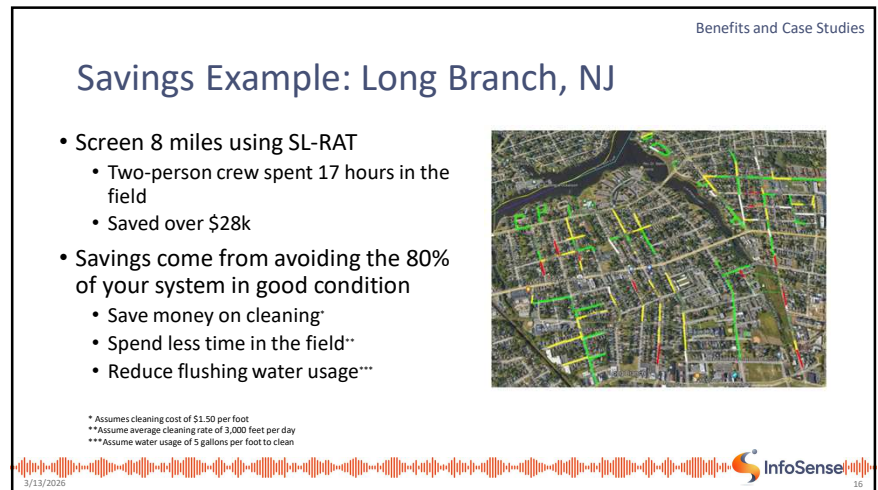
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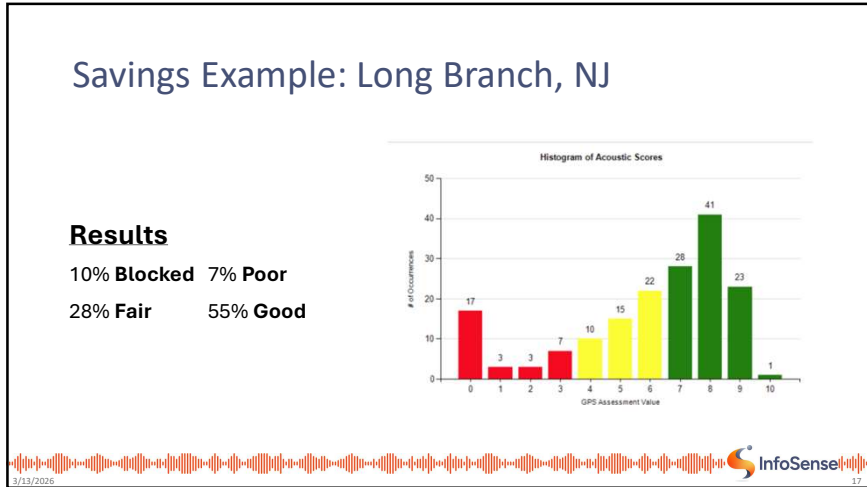


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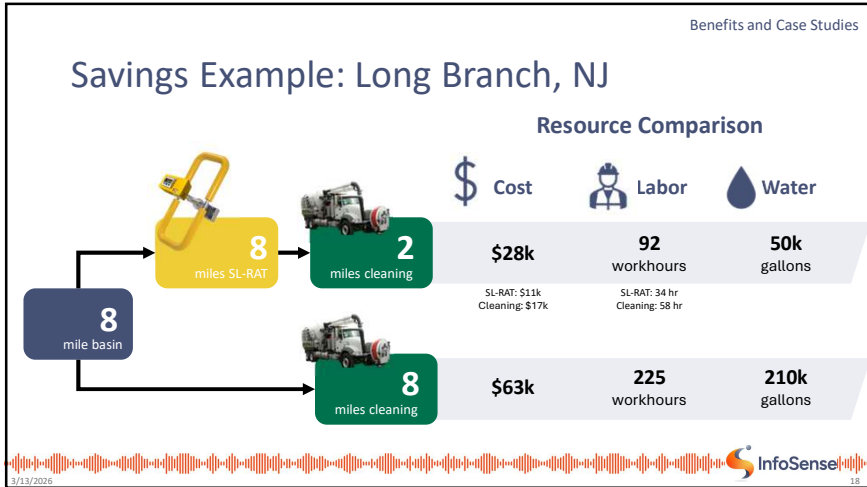


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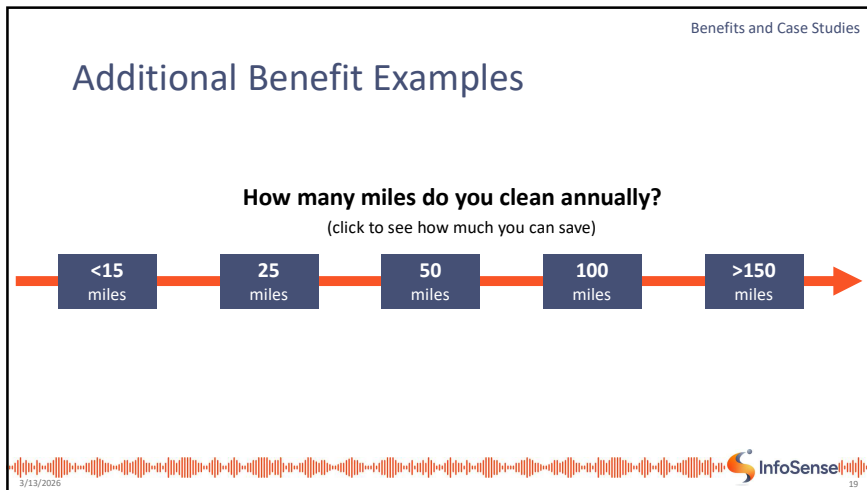
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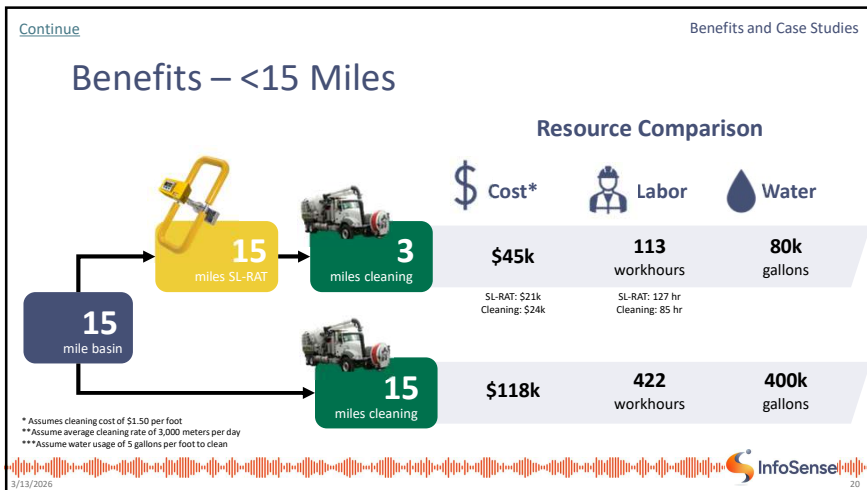
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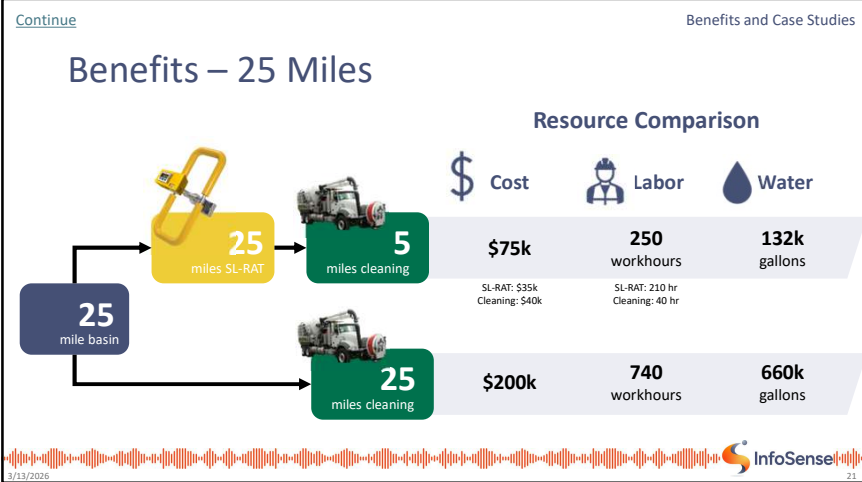


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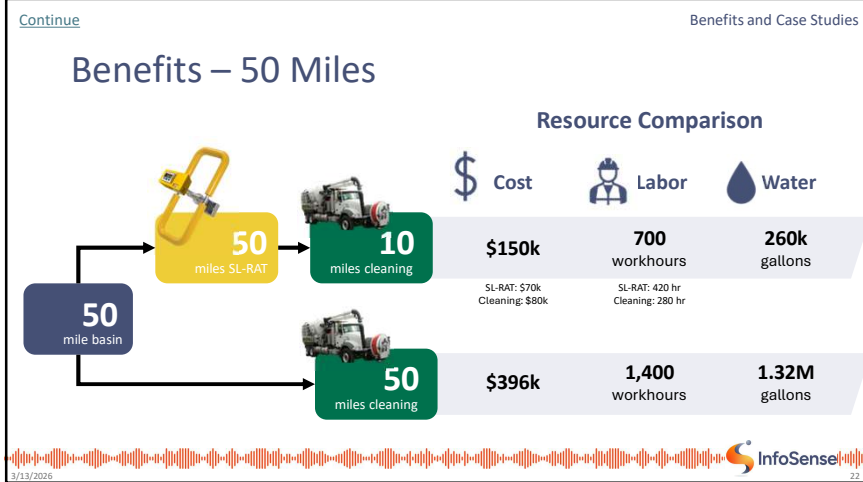


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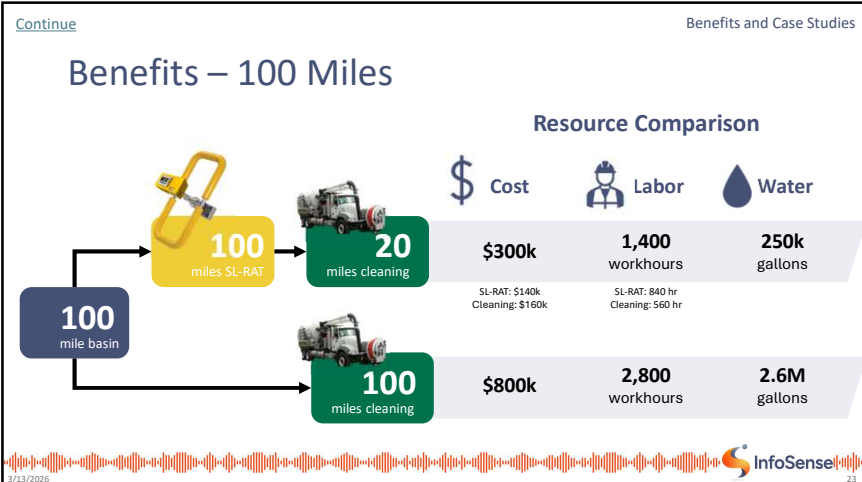
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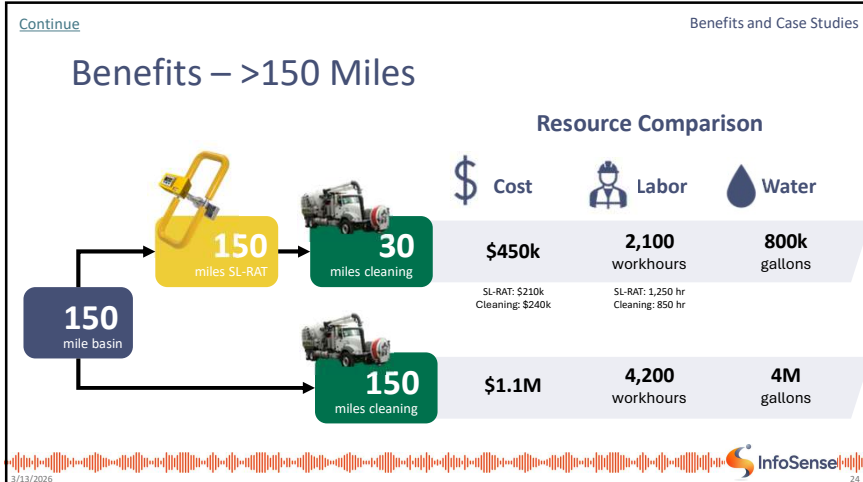
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[Go Questions!](#)

Case Studies

Hot Spot Reduction - Virginia Beach, Virginia
Efficiency Improvements - Gainesville Regional Utilities, Florida
Staffing Shortage Abatement - Peachtree City, Georgia
SL-RAT Service Offering - Bend, Oregon





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Case Study: Hot Spot Reduction at Virginia Beach

- City Overview
 - Population: 450,000
 - 1500 miles gravity mains
 - 32,000 manholes
 - 413 Pump station
- Purchased first units in 2013
 - Expanded program to 4 units

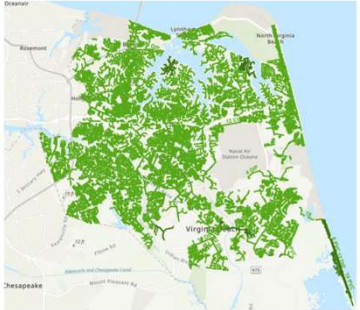





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The Problem

- The Hotspot Cleaning List had grown so large that the monthly cleaning target became unattainable.
 - Missed cleanings created an increased SSO risk.
- Decision-making to add segments was too subjective and based on an opinion of cause and pipe condition.

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Initial Results


- Significantly reduced the number of pipes cleaned in year one

Frequency (days)	Sum Pipe Length (linear feet)	Total Annual Cleaning (linear feet)	No. Pipe Segment (#)
30	7,993	95,916	48
60	30,588	183,528	170
90	93,444	373,776	519
180	95,242	190,484	507
365	66,630	66,630	334
Total	293,897	910,334	1,578

Before SL-RAT

Frequency (days)	Sum Pipe Length (linear feet)	Total Annual Cleaning (linear feet)	No. Pipe Segment (#)
30	1,791	21,492	6
60	0	0	0
90	8,589	34,356	49
180	2,025	4,050	39
365	0	0	0
Total	12,405	59,898	94

After SL-RAT



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CM1 Highlight numbers

Chase Mendell, 2025-12-19T15:34:02.789

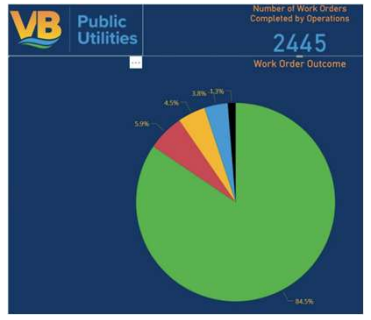
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Ongoing improvements

- Significant Cleaning Reduction
 - 89.6% - No Action Needed/Potential Re-Baseline/Baseline Needed
 - 5.9% - Mainline Stoppage
 - 4.5% - Create Cleaning Work Order
- Minimize SSOs
 - No Repeat SSOs
- Continues to adjust cleaning and inspection frequencies based on scores



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Benefits and Case Studies

Case Study: Efficiency Improvements at Gainesville Regional Utilities

- 100+ year old gravity system
 - 38% of the system is 50+ years old and has not been renewed (CIPP lined)
- 177 lift stations
- 671 miles of gravity sewer
- 16,200 manholes
- 39 collection system staff

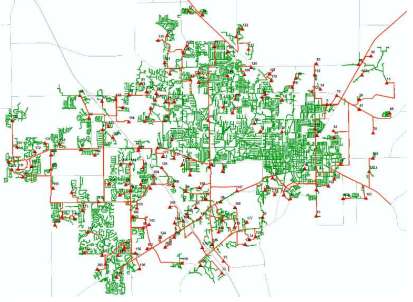


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SWAMP Program

- System Wide Assessment & Maintenance Plan (Swamp)
 - Includes SL-RAT inspection initiative
- Before 2022 implementation
 - CCTV inspections by map grid (25-35 mi/yr)
 - ~19 Years to inspect the entire system
 - Increasing SSO's, blockages, cave-ins
 - High level of reactive/unplanned work

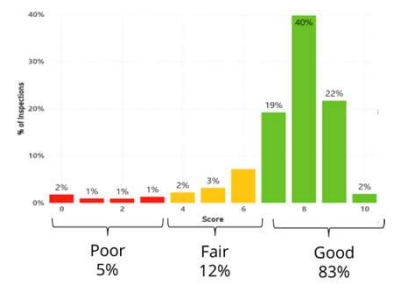


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SWAMP Program SL-RAT Results

- 2-person crew (GRU Staff)
- Average 1–1.5 miles per day
- 3-5 days per week
- Inspection results after one year
 - 390 miles inspected
 - 9,300 pipes inspected
 - 58% of system covered
 - 17% of pipes need cleaning (0-6 Scores)



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SSO Reduction

- **64%** reduction in gravity SSO volume from 2022 to 2023
- System Inspection Frequency reduced to **2.5 years**
 - 15-20 Years Using Traditional Methods
- **85% less expensive** than traditional CCTV per foot

SWAMP Program Implemented (Oct 2022)

SSO Volume Released

Year	SSO Volume Released (K)
2019	~5
2020	~10
2021	~15
2022	~55
2023	~20
2024	~5

GRU More than Energy

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Benefits and Case Studies

Case Study:
Staffing Shortage Abatement in Peachtree City

- Condition-Based maintenance program discontinued due to staff turnover.
 - Revitalized program after finding unit in supply closet
- 180 miles of sanitary sewer
- 38,000 people
- 6 full-time staff

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Program Results

Miles Inspected with SL-RAT: **54 Miles**

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Cleaning only lines that score <=4

Required Cleaning: **0.6 Miles**

(Actual SL-DOG Data for Peachtree City, GA)

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Program Results (cont.)

Total Cost (\$000s)

Inspection Method	Total Cost (\$000s)
Without SL-RAT Inspection	~430
With SL-RAT Inspection	~60

- Issues Discovered
 - Root Growth
 - Asphalt Chunks
 - Surcharged Manholes
 - Grease Buildup

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Service Case Study: Bend, Oregon




- Purchased SL-RAT Unit in 2017
 - Over 4000 measurements taken
 - Over 830,000 feet measured
 - ~90% of lines measured score "Good"
- Service project in 2023
 - Increases City's overall inspection scope
 - 67,000 feet
 - 300 manholes
 - 10-days




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Service Project Timeline



- 1 – 2 Weeks: Project Planning**
 - Shapefiles are converted into working GIS Map
 - Live Dashboard is created to track real-time progress
- 2 Weeks: Data Collection**
 - Service team inspected up to 20,000 feet per day
 - Follows ASTM Standard F3220-17
- 1 Week: Final Deliverables**
 - Service Recap outlining results
 - Interactive GIS Dashboard

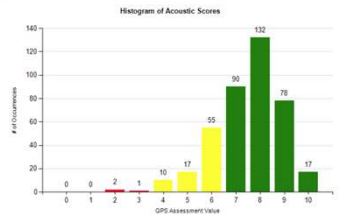


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1% of Lines Recommended For Cleaning


Measurement Totals
402 total measurements




0% BLOCKED
1% POOR
20% FAIR
79% GOOD

Anticipated Benefit Summary

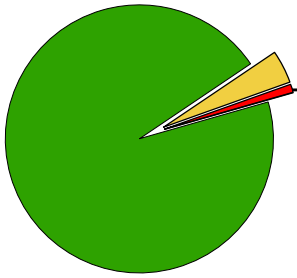
Total Feet Assessed	Estimated Cost to Clean All Pipe @ \$1.00-\$2.00/ft	After Assessment Feet Requiring Cleaning	Estimated Cost to Clean low score pipe (<=4) Pipe @ \$1.15/ft	Anticipated Cost Saved After Assessment
68k	\$68-136k	3k	\$3.5k	\$64.5-131.5k



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1% of Manholes Recommended For Additional Inspection

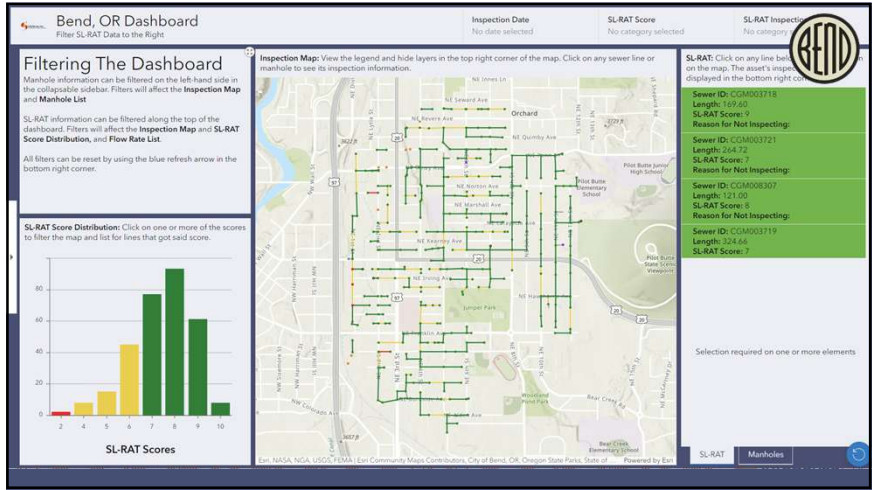


331 Manholes Inspected:
The majority inspected had no issues

Issues Found
Bad Collar
Sources of Infiltration



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Questions?

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Implementation

<p>Purchase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended for established utilities • Willing to devote the time to establish new maintenance protocols • Includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and Customer Support • One Year SL-DOG Subscription 	➔	<p>Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended for utilities who want cheap condition data without the hassle • Full turnkey solution • No administrative overhead • Includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS deliverables • Manhole Inspection
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Service Solution




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Service Offering


InfoSense Service Solution




- Trained InfoSense crew inspects 10-15k ft/day
- No admin overhead cost for client
- Minimal day-to-day management for client



- Custom deliverables
- Data QA/QC included



- Priced attractively per foot*
- Includes basic manhole inspections
- No capital investment



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Service Offering

Service Project Timeline

Phase 1

Project Planning

→

Phase 2

Data Collection

→


Phase 3

Final Deliverables

- Shapefiles are converted into working GIS Map
- Live Dashboard is created to track real-time progress

- Service team inspects 10-15k feet per day
- Follows ASTM Standard F3220-17

- Service Recap outlining results
- Interactive GIS Dashboard
- Photograph of every manhole inspected




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Included Basic Manhole Inspections

- Completed during SL-RAT inspections
- Data recorded in GIS
- Two pictures taken of every manhole
 - Lid and collar
 - Inside chamber



Inspection Fields

Manhole Condition


- Cover/Frame Condition
- Collar Condition
- Structure Condition
- Bench/Channel Condition

Backup Risks

- Inflow and Infiltration
- Debris

Mapping Inaccuracies

- Buried Manholes
- Location Changes
- Unmapped Assets



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Service Offering


Manhole Inspection Fields

Field	Common Problems	Rating
Cover (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mislabeled lids Cracked lids Buried under asphalt 	Good/Fair/Poor/Urgent
Collar (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broken bricks Cracks in cement 	Good/Fair/Poor/Urgent
Structure (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broken bricks I/I Source 	Good/Fair/Poor/Urgent
Bench/Channel (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debris I/I Source Eroded channels 	Good/Fair/Poor/Urgent
Inflow and Infiltration (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active surcharge Signs of previous surcharge 	None/Mild/Significant/Urgent
Debris (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gravel or bricks Trash 	None/Mild/Significant/Urgent


Real Photos from Past Projects




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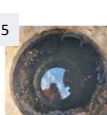
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Service Offering

Manhole Issues Are Frequently Independent of Blockage Issues



A surcharged manhole results in a score of 0



Debris in manhole but no flow impact

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About InfoSense

Who We Work With

Local to the Midwest

- St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District (MO)
- City of Green Bay (WI)
- City of Iowa City (IA)
- Village of Schaumburg (IL)
- City of Springfield (IL)
- City of Elmhurst (IL)
- City of Manhattan (KS)
- City of Sioux Falls (SD)
- Village of Bartlett (IL)
- City of Topeka (KS)
- St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District (MO)
- City of Green Bay (WI)

- Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority (AR)
- Jonesboro City Water & Light (AR)
- Norwalk (CT)
- Russellville Water and Sewer (AR)
- City of Fort Smith (AR)
- City of New Bedford (MA)
- Rogers Water Utilities (AR)
- City of Norwich (CT)
- Salt Lake City (UT)
- Charlotte Water (NC)
- Baltimore County (MD)
- Lancaster Area Sewer Authority (PA)
- Town of Cary (NC)
- City of Virginia Beach (VA)
- Fredericksburg (VA)
- New Castle County (DE)
- Gastonia (NC)
- American Water-Fort Belvoir (VA)
- City of Durham (NC)
- Citizens Energy Group(IN)
- Montgomery County (OH)
- Carmel Wastewater Utilities (IN)
- Evansville Water & Sewer Utility (IN)
- Sanitation District No.1 (KY)
- Louisville MSD (KY)
- City of Lafayette (IN)
- Richardson Sanitary District (IN)
- Fort Wayne (IN)
- City of Mountlake Terrace (WA)
- City of Pullman (WA)
- City of Cheney (WA)
- City of Gig Harbor (WA)
- City of Bothell (WA)
- City of Snohomish (WA)
- Douglas County Sewer District (WA)
- City of Westport (WA)
- City of Poulsbo (WA)
- Alderwood Water & Wastewater District (WA)
- City of Irving (TX)
- New Braunfels Utilities (TX)
- City of Santa Barbara (CA)
- City of Galveston (TX)
- City of Laguna Beach (CA)
- County of Lake (CA)
- San Rafael (CA)
- City of Killen (TX)
- City of Mansfield (TX)
- Houston (TX)
- Jefferson County (AL)
- Augusta-Richmond County (GA)
- JEA (FL)
- Hillsborough County (FL)
- Peachtree City (GA)
- County of Cocoa (FL)
- Gainesville Regional Utilities (FL)
- Spartanburg (SC)
- City of Tulsa (OK)
- Greenville (SC)
- Santiago (Chile)
- Regional Municipality of Halton (Ontario)
- Singapore PUB
- Toronto Water (Ontario, Canada)
- City of Mesa Water Resources (AZ)
- Castle Rock Water (CO)
- City of Saratoga Springs (UT)
- Ash Creek Special Service District (UT)
- Layton City (UT)
- City of Saskatoon (SK)



...and over 1,000 more around the world

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Case Study: Green Bay, WI

Objective: Optimize cleaning program to more efficiently allocate resources and reduce sanitary sewer overflows.

- Population – 107,000
- Incorporated - 1854
- Brown County
- Paper and Packing Industry
- Over 110 square miles

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Wastewater System Overview



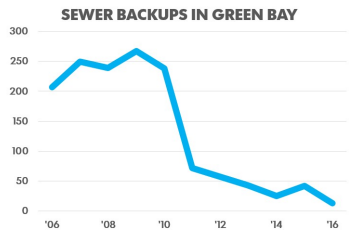

- City of Green Bay Public Works maintains 465 miles of sanitary sewer
- Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District (New Water)
 - Built in 1975
 - Treats on average 41 million g/day from both Green Bay and 14 other surrounding communities
 - Maintains 78 miles of interceptors





Program Before Acoustic Technology



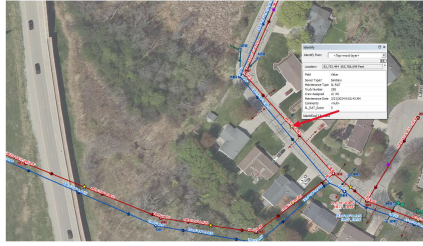

- Goals
 - Clean at least 500k feet of pipe per year
 - CCTV at least 500k feet of pipe per year
- Hotspot Program – clean problem spot annually or more and areas around hot spot
- Reduce Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)


Overview of Acoustic Program



- Purchased 1st SL-RAT August 2016
- Purchased 2nd SL-RAT May 2019
- Implemented condition-based maintenance strategy
- First two years of program
 - Inspecting over 1.4 million feet/year
 - Overkill – could not keep up with cleaning
- After two years into program
 - Inspecting ~500k ft of pipe per year
- Year-round sewer pipe inspection using acoustic technology
- Data managed in Cartegraph





SL-RAT Workflow Overview



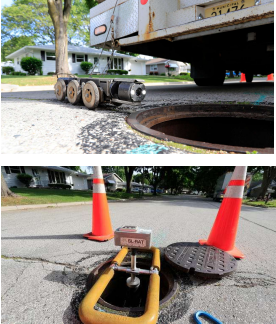


- 2 vehicles/2 crew members average about 50-60k feet/week
- SL-RAT scores directly inputted into ArcGIS mobile Collector app on tablet by operators in the field
- Scoring System
 - 0-5 – Fail – pipe segment is cleaned
 - 6-10 – Pass – no additional work required
- Jetting work order tickets generated automatically in ArcGIS for anything equal to or less than 5
- Examine/CCTV repeat failures for structural issues

Year	Pass (ft)	Fail (ft)
2019	218k	342k
2020	544k	342k
2021	193k	261k
2022	349k	192k
2023	224k	168k
2024	182k	276k



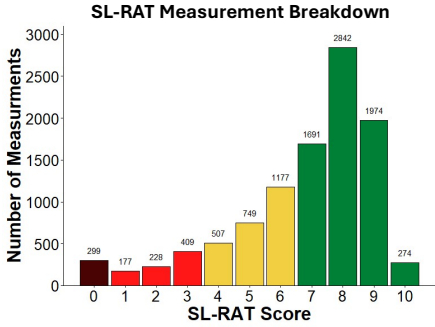


Collection System Overview

- ~5 Year Maintenance Cycle both cleaning and CCTV
- Cleaning & Televising 500-600k ft/yr
- 17 crew members
- Equipment
 - 2 vans
 - 4 Vacators
 - 2 CCTV Trucks
 - CleverScan – manhole inspections
- ArcGIS

Green Bay SL-RAT Histogram

	Footage	Percent
Segment Cleaned (0-6)	30k	23%
No Cleaning Needed (7-10)	221k	77%

Acoustic Program Results

- Reduction in cleaning footage
- Increased visibility to entire system
- Reduction in SSOs
 - “These efforts include using sonic waves to gauge whether pipes are obstructed and closed-circuit television cameras to hunt down blockages and defects.” – Green Bay Press Gazette

Total Footage Screened since 2019	3.29 mil
Total Footage Cleaned	1.71 mil
Total Footage Avoiding Cleaning	1.58 mil

