



SUMMARY

- We will be blowing smoke into the sanitary sewers
- The smoke is non-toxic
- There is a slight chance the smoke will enter your house/building through your sanitary service

100 North Water Works Drive
Belleville, IL 62223
www.illinoisamwater.com

Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing July 31, 2023 through August 18, 2023

This communication is intended to provide you with information about wastewater system inspections and investments. Action is required on your part. Thank you in advance.

Over the next few months, Illinois American Water will be completing a detailed assessment of the local wastewater system. This work will include a hydraulic flow study, main line, and manhole inspections, as well as closed circuit television investigation (CCTV) of the sanitary collection system. This letter is to notify you that Illinois American Water Company (ILAWC) is also in the process of implementing an Inflow/Infiltration (I/I) Reduction Program and will soon be performing sanitary smoke testing in your community. The program objective is to remove storm water sources from the sanitary sewer system and manage wastewater treatment costs.

Smoke testing consists of placing a high-capacity blower on top of a sanitary sewer manhole and forcing harmless “smoke” down into the sewer system. The smoke, under pressure from the blower, travels through the sewer system and escapes through any connection, cracks, leaks, etc., along the way. This quickly reveals sources of I/I within the study area. As part of the process, field personnel may be walking around the exterior of your home or building looking for signs that a storm water source (downspout, yard drain, sump pump, etc.) is connected to the sanitary sewer.

Field inspectors from **M3 Engineering Group** are working for ILAWC and will be performing the smoke testing. All personnel will have proper identification and vehicles marked. The smoke used for smoke testing is non-toxic and non-hazardous and is manufactured specifically for this purpose. It leaves no residual odor or stains and has no effect on plants or animals. The smoke should not enter your building; but if it does, it will have a distinct odor and should only last a few minutes with proper ventilation.

Please note, **all plumbing fixture drain traps must be filled with water prior to smoke testing.** Upon receipt of this notice, fill seldom used drains (such as floor drains, garage sinks, etc.) with water by running the faucet for 30 to 60 seconds or filling the drain with approximately 3 cups of water. Smoke should not enter your home; however, if it does this could be an indication of a defect in your plumbing system. This defect could allow sewer gases to enter inside your home, which is a potential health hazard. Corrections of such defects on private property are the responsibility of the property owner, and a licensed plumber should be consulted to ensure the proper corrections are made. If smoke does enter your home or building, please notify the field inspectors who are conducting the test or call the number at the bottom of this notice.

By working together, we can help reduce the amount of stormwater entering the wastewater system and potentially lower the associated costs. We appreciate your patience and understanding and will make every effort to minimize the inconvenience or disruptions this project may have on you. If you have any questions concerning the smoke testing or property inspections, please contact:

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Sincerely,

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