

**NEWEA
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Conference
& Exhibit**

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NEW ENGLAND WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

NEWEA
WORKING FOR WATER QUALITY



Understanding Sewer Slope Transitions – Reduces Odor/Corrosion Impacts!

Richard J. Pope, P.E., BCEE

Odor Services Leader

Vice President Hazen and Sawyer

Hazen

Wastewater Historical Perspective

- **Focus on WWTPs/WRRFs**
 - Complaints accused
 - Visible
 - Community: Smell with their eyes
- **Collection System (CS)**
 - OOS/OOM
 - Not well understood
 - Largely ignored



Wastewater Historical Perspective

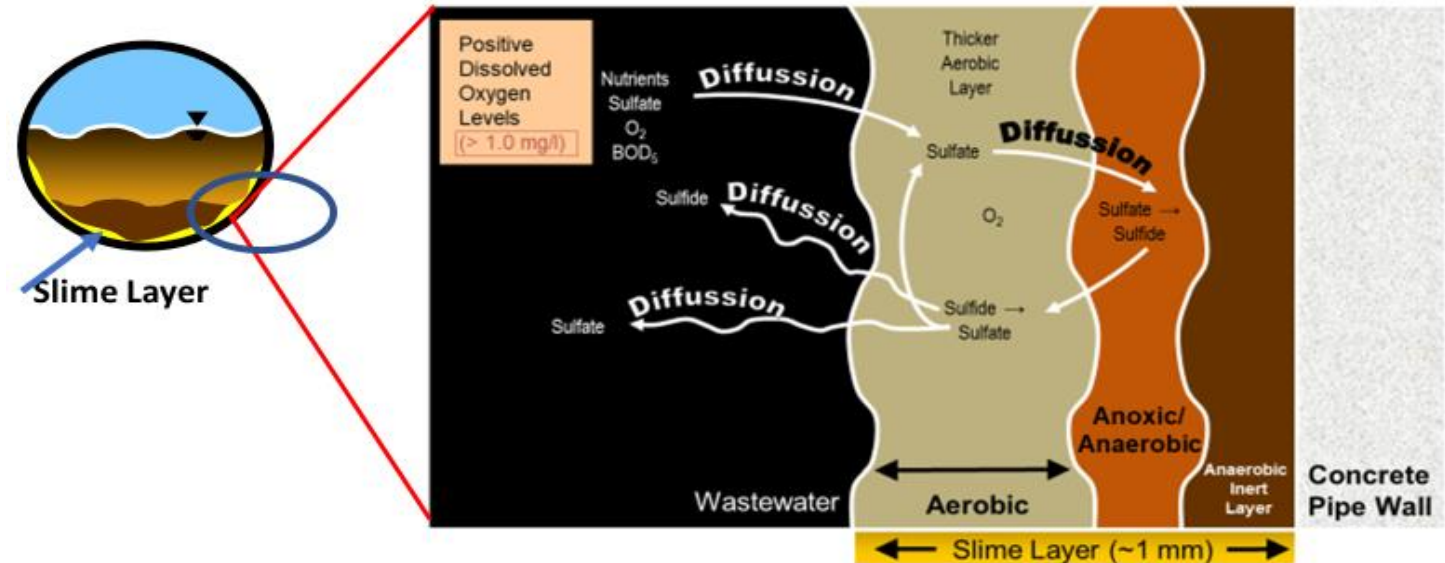
- **CS Design Intent**
 - Transport community ww
 - Long term
- **Poor Understanding:**
 - Supported odor formation
 - Created corrosive conditions
- **Trouble Underground!?**



Reality Kicks In!

- **Asset Management**
 - Inspections revealed issues
- **Odor formation documented**
- **Supporting conditions understood**
- **Impacts are REAL:**
 - Nuisance odors
 - Community Complaints
 - System corrosion
 - Infrastructure compromised!

Sulfide Formation - Close Up



Solutions

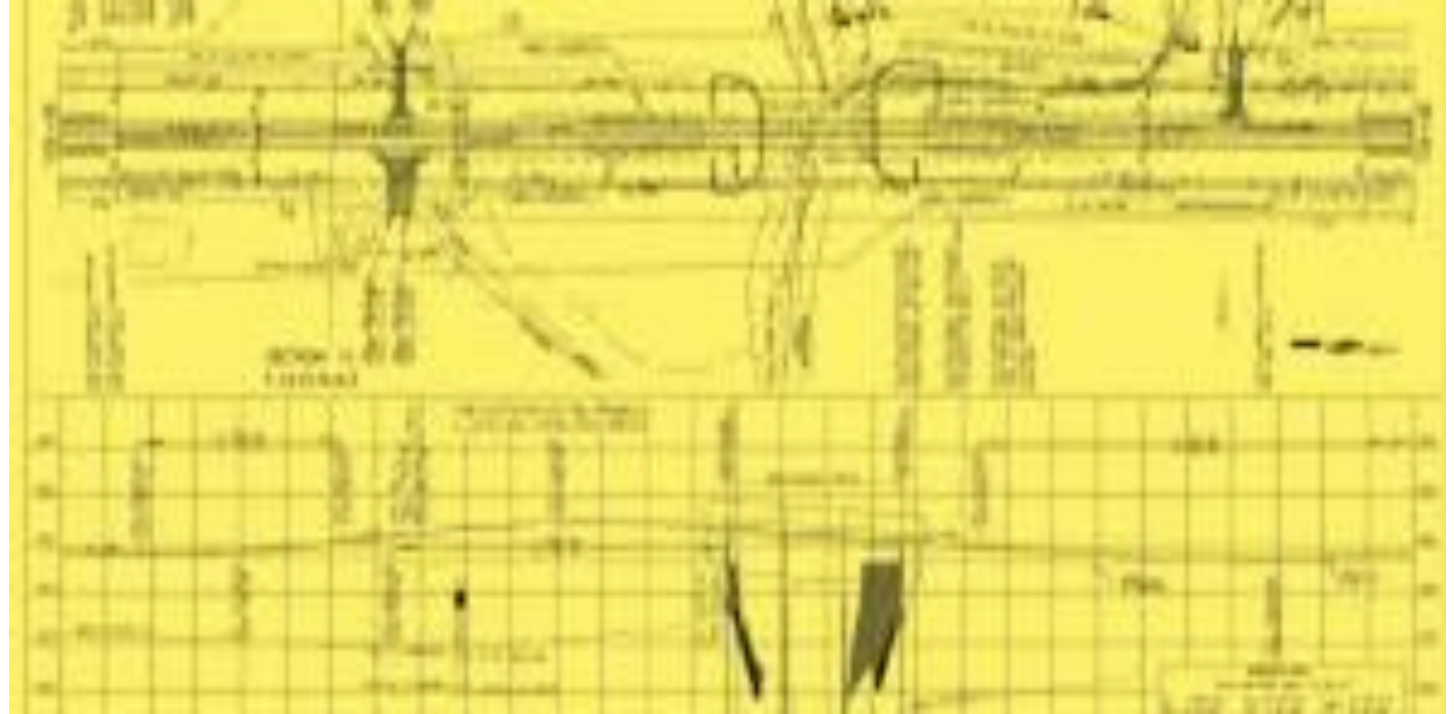
- Identify Hot Spots
- Housekeeping Steps
- Protect Surfaces
- Add Chemical
- Extract & Treat



All steps designed to mitigate odors and corrosion!

Historical Sewer Design

- Sewer Designs
 - Connect **A** with **B**
 - Follow grades/streets
 - Insert LS/PS where needed
 - Install siphons when can't go over or around
- Did Engineers anticipate
 - Design impacts
- How Physical layouts:
 - Can exacerbate
 - Odor Formation
 - Odor Stripping
 - Release to Atmosphere



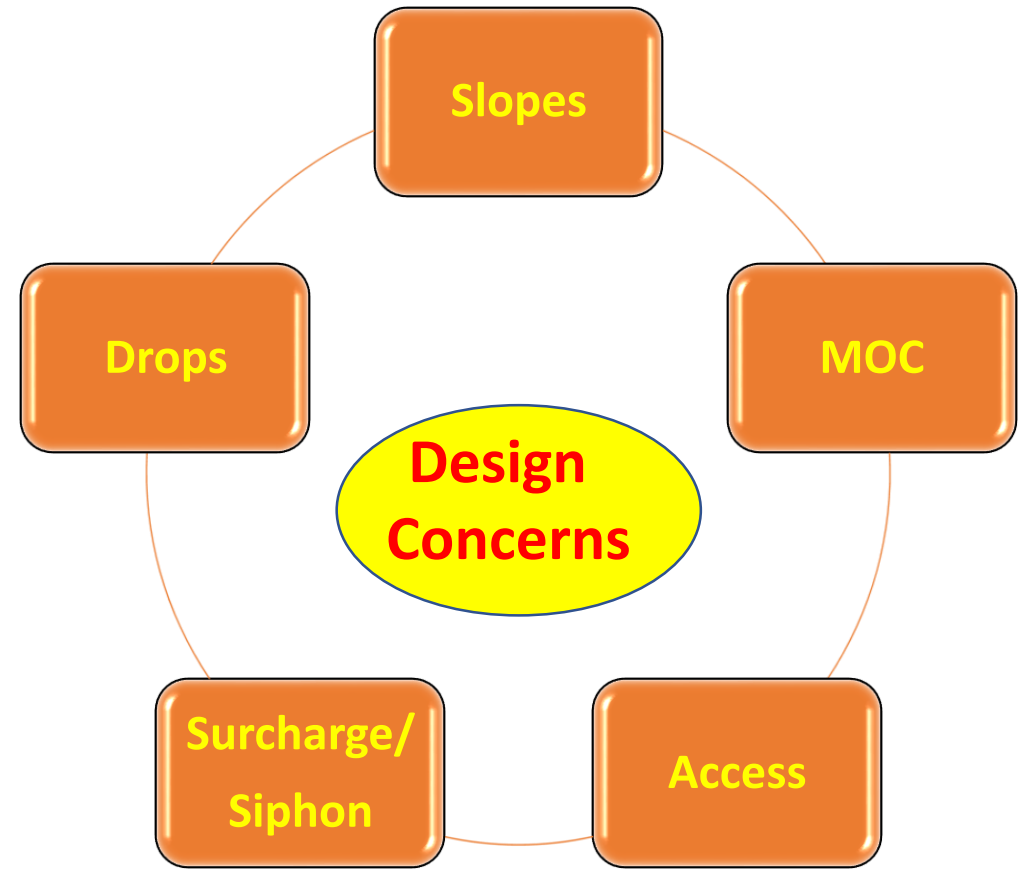
Moving Forward

- Review and enhance sewer designs
 - Consider Materials of Construction
 - Understand odor formation & release
 - Reduce turbulence
 - Build in controls



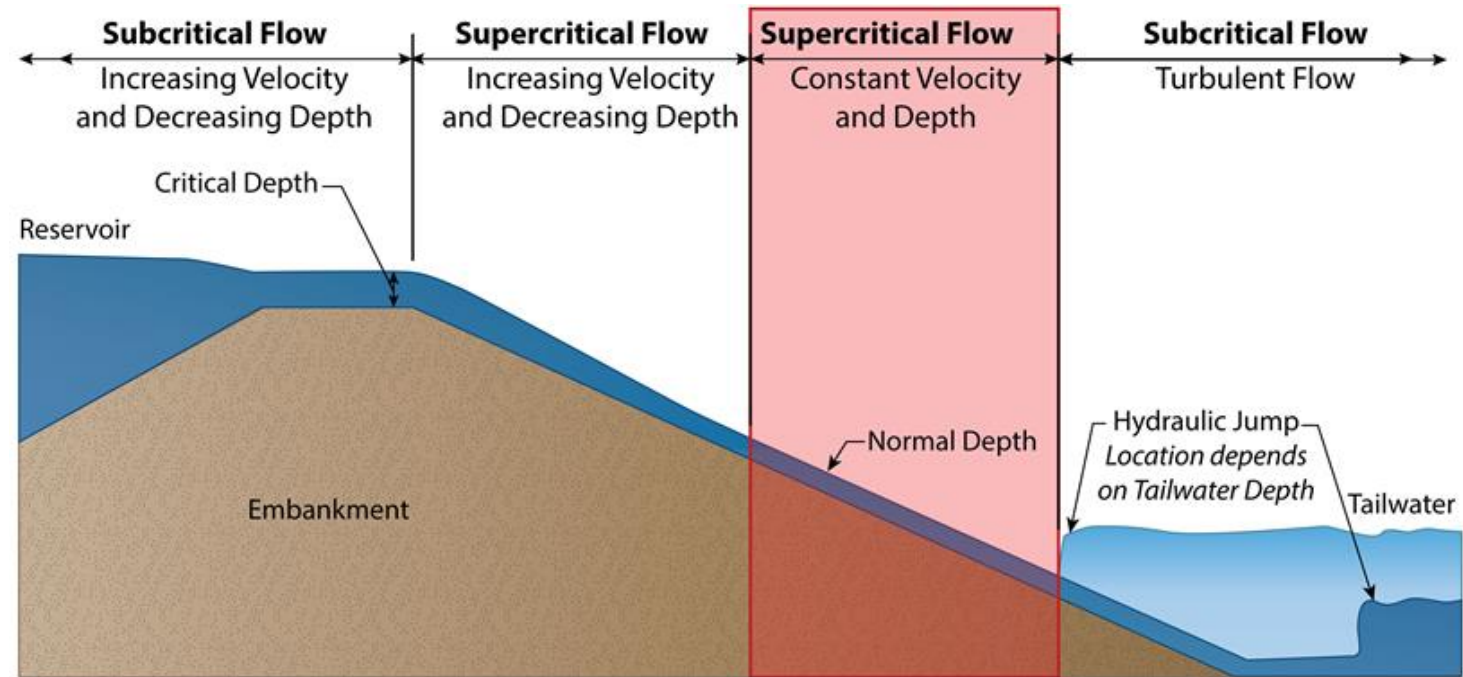
Working With What We Have

- Replacing is not an Option
- Understanding Existing Conditions
- Create Workable/Viable Solutions
 - KISS Approach
- Set Criteria for Future Designs



Example: Physical Layout Implications

- Condition Statement
 - Steep to Flat/Mild Slope Intersection
- Common Location
 - FM break to gravity
- Cannot/Difficult to Avoid
- Awareness
 - Recognize conditions
 - Protect infrastructure
 - Mitigate odors



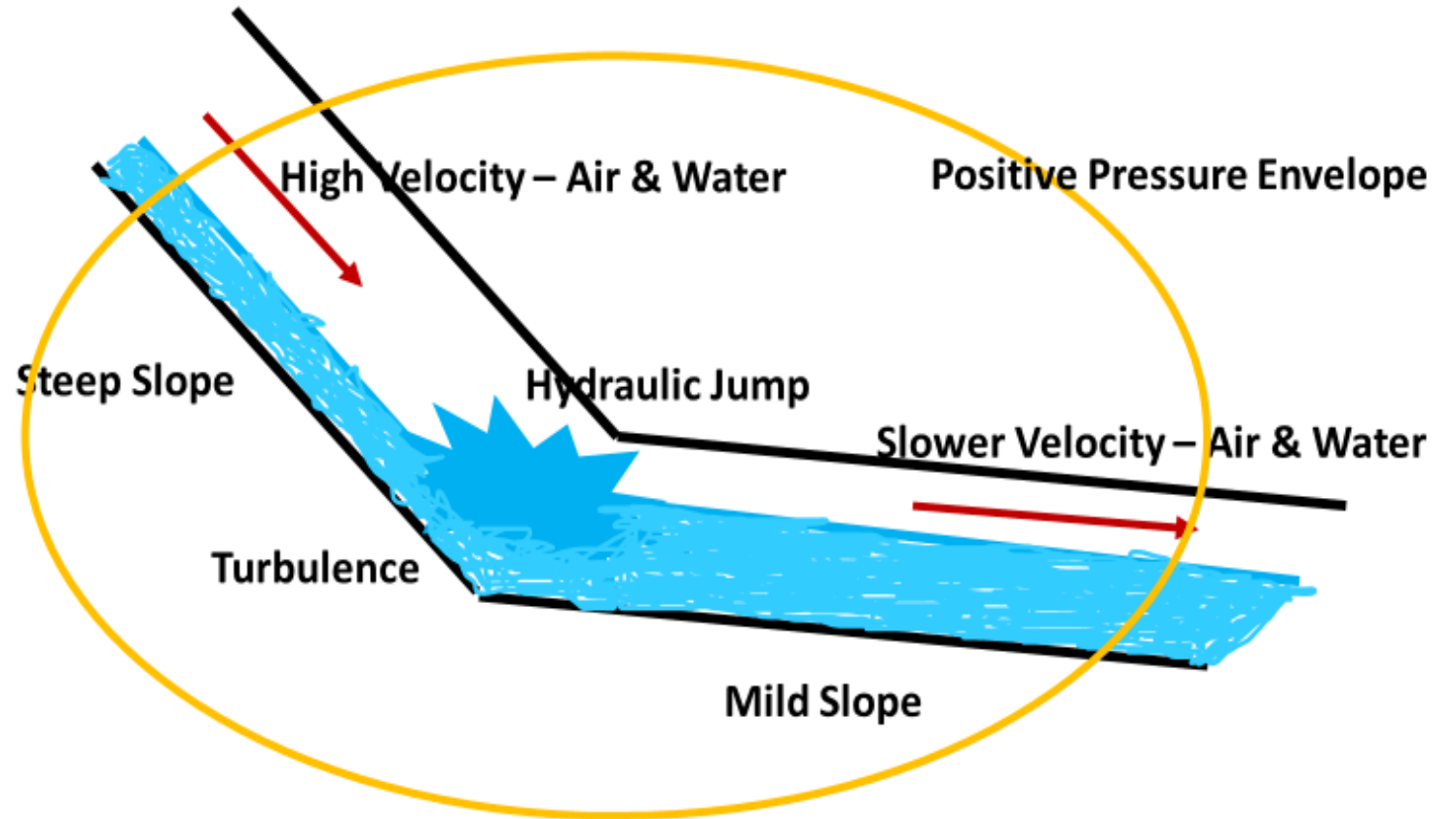
As part of DESIGN!

Steep to Flat/Mild Slope Conditions

- High velocity
 - Air
 - Water

MEETING

- Lower velocity
 - Air
 - Water



Result

Hydraulic Jump: Creating

- Turbulence
 - Stripping
- Positive air pressure envelope
 - Up & Downstream
 - Looking for a way out!



Case Histories

- **Three Different Scenarios**
- 1.) Northern Kentucky (KY)
- 2.) Westchester County (NY)
- 3.) Northern Kentucky (KY)



Case Histories

CASE HISTORY #1: NORTHERN KENTUCKY

Northern Kentucky (KY)

Background

- PS -- FM
 - 3 mile FM
- Break to gravity
 - Top of ravine
- Connects to Interceptor
 - Bottom of ravine



Northern Kentucky FM (KY)

Background

- Gravity connector
 - Steep slope
- Shortly before & at Interceptor
 - Mild to flat slope
- Connection
 - 90° “T” connection



Northern Kentucky FM (KY)

Problems

- Turbulence
 - High velocity of steep slope
 - Hydraulic jump at intersection
 - Abrupt stop @ “T” connection
 - High H₂S released
- Positive DP
 - Hydraulic jump
 - Dead end “T” connection

FM Stats:

- Length – 3 miles
- Diameter – 30”
- Q= 8 mgd
- Slope – 20%
- H₂S
 - Avg. 250 ppm
 - Max. >500 ppm

Northern Kentucky FM (KY)

Problems

- Positive DP plume spread out
 - Wide zone of influence (ZOI)
 - Up/Downstream of interceptor
- Upstream
 - Lateral connections
 - New expensive Townhomes
 - Odor complaints
- Downstream undeveloped
 - Open & undeveloped land

Northern Kentucky FM (KY)

Solutions

- Reconnect to interceptor
 - Wye connection
 - Smoother transition
 - Reduce (not eliminate) turbulence & DP plume
- Initial Plan
 - Vapor phase odor control
 - Select biofilter
 - Cost estimate: \$1-2M



Northern Kentucky FM (KY)

Additional Option

- Open land to Plant

Propose

- Contain odors/Push downstream
- Close up sewer vents
 - Protected surfaces
- Flaps on laterals
- Solid MH covers
- Vent to atmosphere



Simple Solutions are Always Best!

**CASE HISTORY #2:
WESTCHESTER COUNTY**

Westchester County (NY)

- Background
- PS – FM (4-5 miles)
- FM break to gravity
 - Top of hill
- Steep slope
 - Length: ~ ½ mile
- Bottom
 - Flattens out
- Runs into Inverted siphon (short)



Westchester County

Two separate sewer lines on steep slope

- Village
 - Fresh wastewater
 - Low odors
- County
 - FM discharge
 - Septic
 - “No” flow when FM off
 - High odors



**Connect Downstream
(at toe of slope)**

Westchester County

- Before combine – along steep slope
 - Neighborhood Park
 - Residences
- After combine – along mild slope
 - Inverted Siphon – short length
 - Industrial area



Conditions of Concern

Problems

- Turbulence
 - Along length
 - Hydraulic Jump
 - Transition (steep to mild)
- Negative Differential Pressure (DP)
 - Upper length
 - Wastewater drag
- Positive DP plume
 - Lower length
 - Jump
 - Siphon
- Backing up line
 - To Park and Homes



Alternative Options

Solutions

- Physical
 - Too costly
- Recommended
 - Vapor phase control
 - Carbon
 - Near Park & siphon
 - Chemical addition at PS
 - Magnesium Hydroxide
 - Very effective
- Complaints way down!

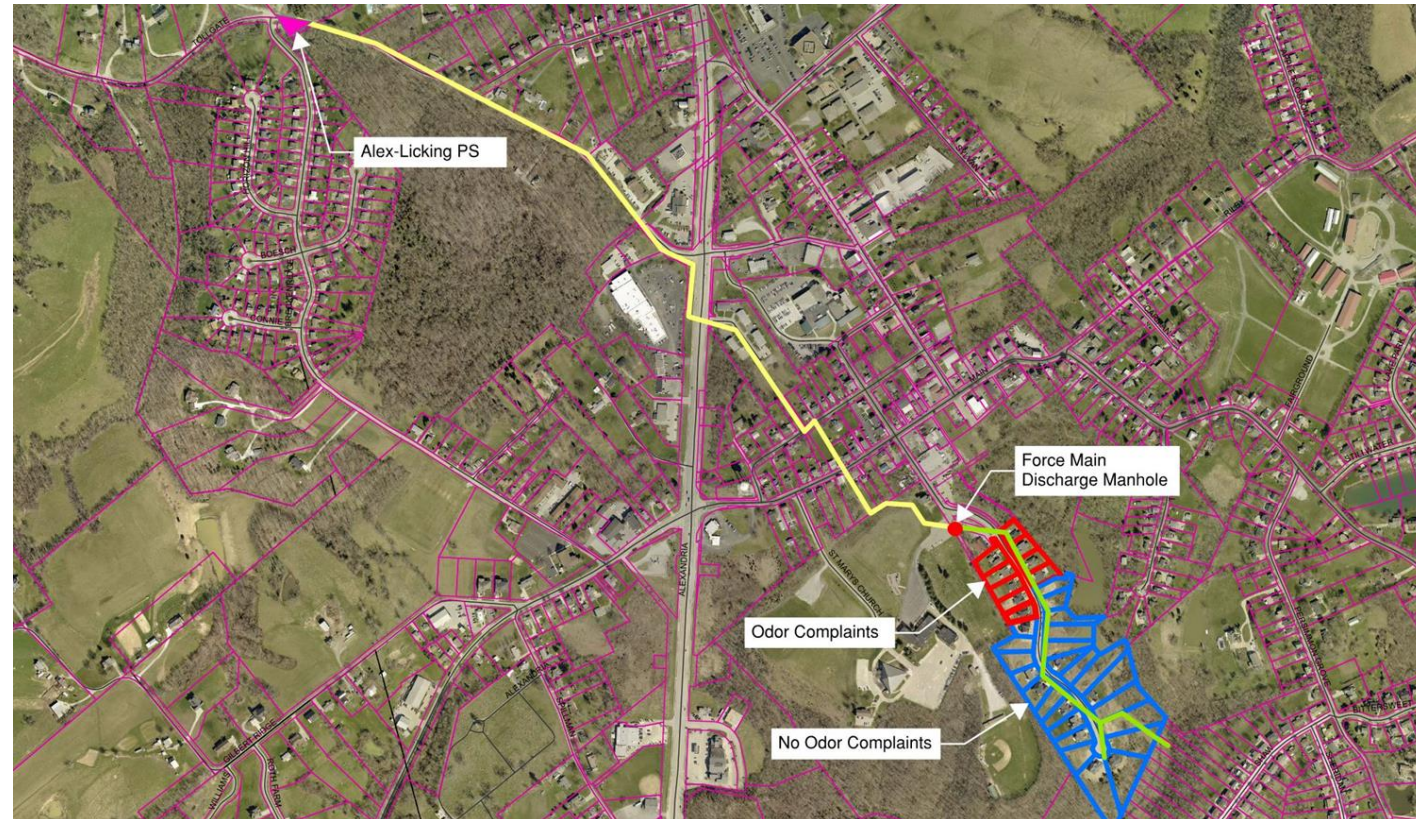


**CASE HISTORY #3:
NORTHERN KENTUCKY**

Northern Kentucky (KY)

Background

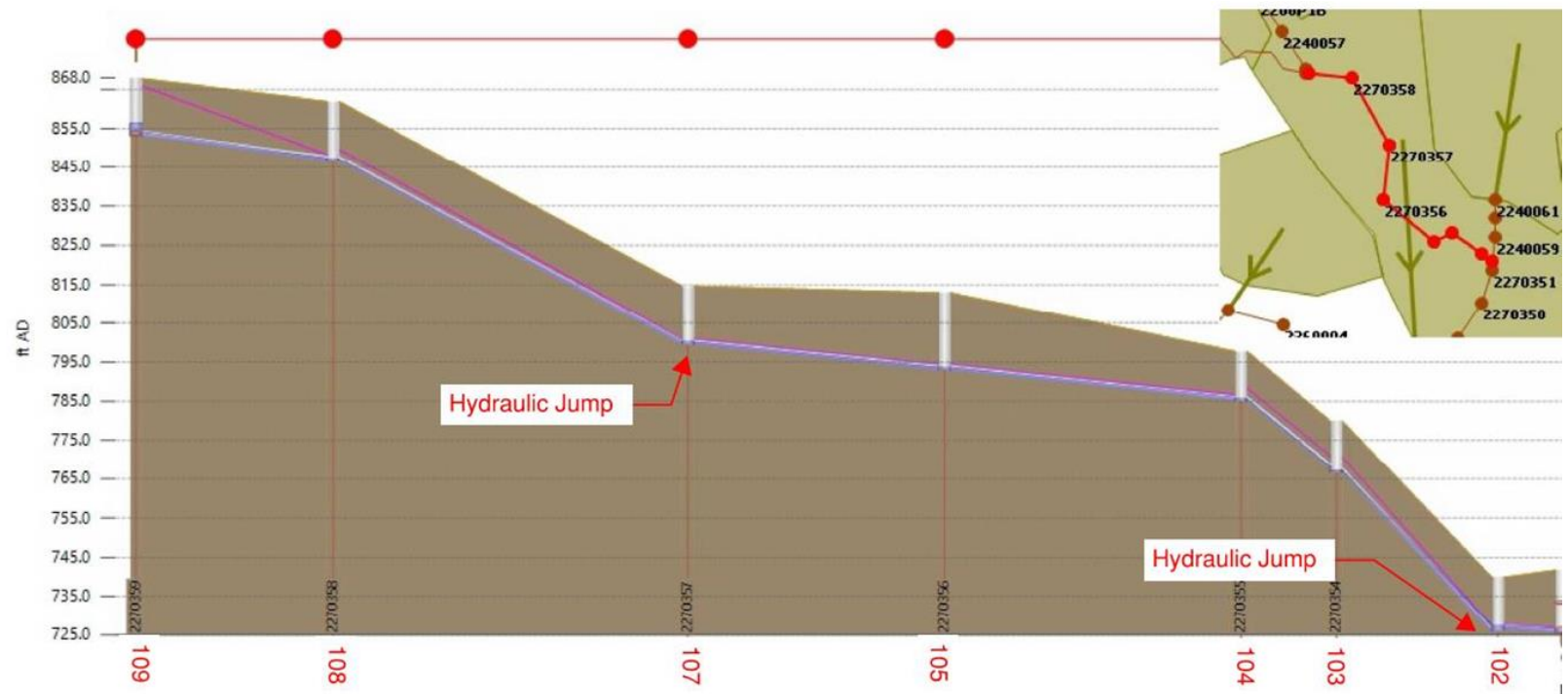
- FM
 - Break to gravity
 - Steep slope
 - Less steep slope
- Community along steep slope
 - Odor complaints
 - Odor in homes



Northern Kentucky (KY)

Background

- PS operations
 - 1 Pump start/hour
 - Average run time: 3.3 minutes
 - FM – 18" Ø
- Gravity slopes
 - Range: 0.95% to 18%
 - Velocities: 6 to 15 fps
 - Hydraulic jumps



Northern Kentucky (KY)

Field Monitoring

- Sewer smoke testing
 - Nearly all roof vents smoked
 - No smoke in homes
- Manhole smoke testing – steep slope
 - PS - **OFF**
 - Slow pull into sewer
 - PS - **ON** : 2 scenarios
 - 1. Significant force blowing out -- Before flow reaches location
 - 2. Considerable force pulling in -- As flow passes location



Unusual condition, but makes sense

Northern Kentucky (KY)

Field Monitoring

- Differential Pressure
 - Near “0” - Pump off
 - Positive - Pump on - no flow observed
 - Negative - Pump on - flow observed
 - High wastewater velocity
 - Drags air
 - Creates vacuum

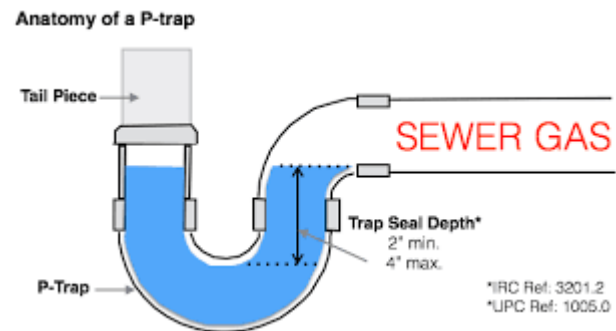
Drained house plumbing traps!!!



Northern Kentucky (KY)

Problem

- One pump cycle
 - Drain house trap
- Subsequent pump cycles
 - Odor into homes



Northern Kentucky (KY)

- Solutions
- Observed can reduce “ -/+” DP
 - MH lids removed
- Replace with vented lids
 - Require odor control
 - Carbon inserts
- Positive & Negative mitigation
 - Air admittance valves
 - Cleanouts with vents outside homes
 - Inline check/flap lateral valves



Northern Kentucky (KY)

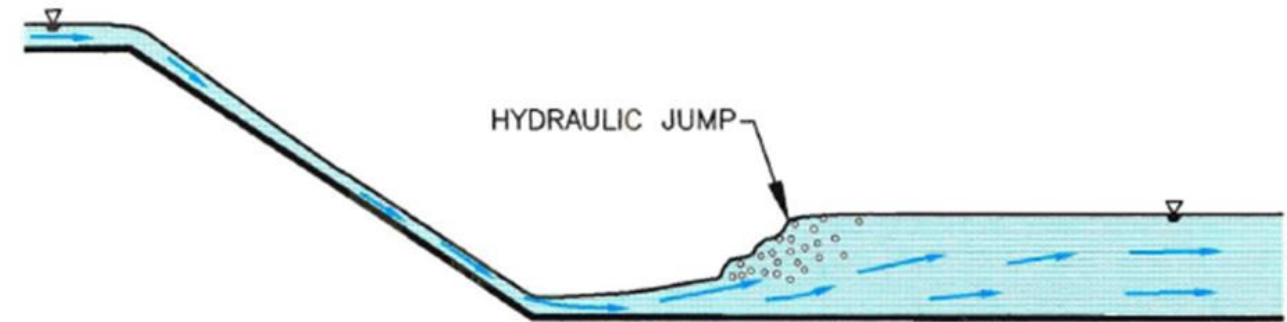
Utility Approach

- New chemical feed pumps
- Add grated lids
- Carbon inserts



Conclusions – Collection Systems

- Physical layouts can create problems
- Answers not always system modification
 - Chemical addition
 - Use downstream release
 - Adjust pump cycles
 - Reduce pressure
- Moral of Story



Observe -- Monitor -- Review -- KIS

Find Your Path to Being a “Good Neighbor”



Speaker Information

Richard J. Pope, P.E., BCEE

Odor Services Leader

Vice President Hazen and Sawyer

E-mail:

rpope@hazenandsawyer.com

Phone:

Mobile: 914-450-6735



Hazen