



Memorandum

TO: City and Consulting Engineers

FROM: North Dakota Department of Health  
Division of Municipal Facilities

RE: Sanitary Sewer Leakage Testing

DATE: January 4, 2016

As you know, Recommended Standards for Wastewater Facilities (Ten State Standards – GLUMRB) constitute the Department’s long-standing design standards for public wastewater collection and treatment systems. These standards require leakage testing of sanitary sewers. This memorandum is provided to address recent inquiries concerning the substitution of televising for leakage testing using water or air.

Televising of sewers can provide valuable information. It can detect problems such as unacceptable horizontal alignment, sags and protruding services. It can also provide useful reference information such as location of service connections. However, televising may not accurately or reliably detect problems that can cause leakage such as rolled or missing gaskets, pipe cracks, or improperly glued joints. Therefore, we do **not** consider televising an acceptable substitute for leakage testing using water or air. Accordingly, we request that specifications for public sewer projects continue to require leakage testing using water or air.

We ask for your continued cooperation and support in this matter. Please direct any questions to the Division at 701.328.5211.