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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management Begins Sewer Assessments This Week

One-third of DeKalb's sewer lines smoke tested for safety

DECATUR, Ga. – The DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management (DWM) is set to begin a comprehensive, multi-phased Priority Area Sewer Assessment and Rehabilitation Program (PASARP) to assess and rehabilitate sewer lines throughout the county.

Specific areas of the county's sanitary sewer collection system have been identified for priority and ongoing evaluation and rehabilitation as part of the county's \$1.345 billion capital improvement projects initiative.

Smoke testing, one of several planned assessments to take place during PASARP, is an effective method in identifying potential causes of defects in the sewer system that lead to sanitary sewer overflows. PASARP also identifies extraneous flows not intended to enter the sewer collection system. Beginning February 1, 2016 and over the course of the next several months, crews will test sewer lines by inserting harmless, non-toxic smoke into isolated parts of the sewer collection system. It should be noted that the smoke is non-toxic and harmless to humans and pets. This smoke is not associated with fire or any other dangerous circumstance.

The PASARP is the largest assessment and rehabilitation project the county is required to perform under its Consent Decree Program. These activities will encompass about one-third of DeKalb's sewer lines. Door hangers will be distributed in affected neighborhoods to alert residents and business owners of upcoming work. There will be no interruption of access to neighborhoods or businesses during testing.

(more)

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In addition to the smoke testing program, structural defects will also be assessed through dye testing, acoustical testing, manhole condition assessments, CCTV/Sonar Testing, pole zoom camera inspections and pipe penetrating multisensory inspections.

The sewer testing is part of DeKalb County's Consent Decree Program resulting from a Clean Water Act settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

For more information, please visit DWM's Consent Decree website at www.dekalbconsentdecree.com. Also, look for more information in the coming weeks on DCTV (DeKalb County Television), educational videos, social media, email and newsletters. You may also call the dedicated Project Hotline at 1-800-986-1108 with questions or comments.

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