



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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For immediate release

March 26, 2012

MWRD work progressing on 39th Street sewer system

System updates critical for long term drainage needs of southeast Chicago

A major sewer rehabilitation project that began in January 2009 along 39th Street on the Southeast side of Chicago is progressing on schedule.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) and contractors are making progress on updating a 100 year old, 20-foot diameter brick intercepting sewer that runs underneath Pershing Road on the city's southeast side. The system services 9.1 square miles.

The project is being completed in two phases. Phase one involves installing a 15-foot diameter tunnel with six drop shafts that will divert flow to the tunnel instead of the intercepting sewer during its rehabilitation during Phase two. This project is critical for the long term drainage needs of the southeast side.

Workers used a combination of machine boring and drill and blast techniques to excavate the surrounding rock for the tunnel and drop shafts. Phase 1 work is expected to be completed by September 2013.

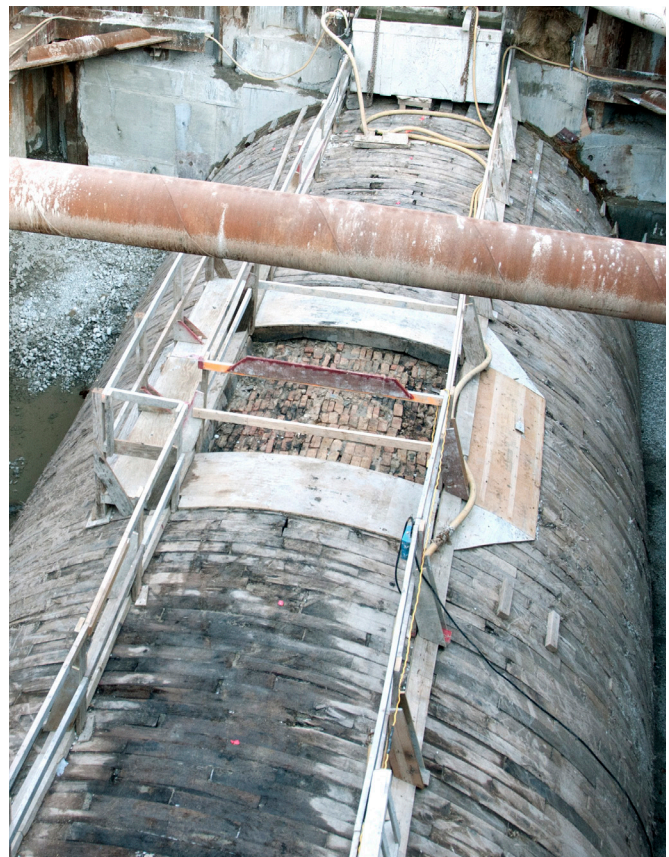
While the rehabilitation is underway, sewers that are connected to the existing 39th Street Conduit will be bypassed by diverting flow to the tunnel from the larger sewers and pumping around the work area for the smaller connections.

After the rehabilitation is complete, the tunnel will provide additional overflow capacity for the sewer.

MWRD Executive Director David St. Pierre is pleased with the work of District engineers and contractors.

“Our team has been diligent in designing and super-

vising the needed improvements to the 39th Street intercepting sewer to keep up with modern demands,” said St. Pierre. “The improvements will benefit those individuals living and working on the city’s southeast side.”



A portion of the 100 year old sewer is seen here while the rehabilitation work was underway earlier this year.

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Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwr.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.