

Operator Tips

By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician

While crisscrossing the state for NeRWA I have the opportunity to visit with many operators. It should be of no surprise to anyone that there is a vast amount of experience and knowledge among these public servants. I decided to periodically provide a forum for sharing this wisdom with operators across the state.

The operator's tip for this article comes from Terry Higgins. Terry is the operator for the Village of Thedford. Terry has had a lifetime of construction experience. I noticed when I visited Terry there were a couple of rubber boot connectors for sewer lines lying in front of his shop (see accompanying photo). Roots had



penetrated between the boot and the PVC sewer pipe blocking the line. Terry said that he had replaced several others that had the same problem. Terry has a policy that whenever possible: locate the problem, dig it up and make permanent repairs. When installing connectors of this type Terry applies silicone between the pipe and the

boot. He rotates the boot to provide an even coat of silicone. As he tightens the bands he taps on them to get a good tight seal. He occasionally encases them in concrete also.

Over the years I have installed a lot of these. I wonder what they look like now. Oh well, someone else's problem now, right?

Do you have a tip to share with other operators? I know there are a lot of them out there. Let me know and we can share your tips through this forum.