

# Where on Earth is that Inflow/Infiltration Coming From!

By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician

This has been a busy year for sewer smoking with a few more systems to go, hopefully before we get a snow cover. I have gone pretty much from border to border across the state.

Mostly we find numerous smaller openings into the collection systems such as missing cleanout caps, etc. but they all add up. We have found rain gutters connected to the city sanitary sewer and direct connections between the sanitary and storm sewer systems. With the extremely high costs associated with treatment expansions sewer smoking is very cost effective.



I recently had a training class in Newman Grove. I was visiting with Dave Schroeter, the operator for the City. He said that they had built new lagoons expecting to have plenty of capacity. In 2010 they had a large amount of rainfall and their lagoons were nearly full.

The search began for the sources of I & I. He remembered when he was growing up in Newman Grove that the school had a roof drain connected to the city sewer. Upon further investigation he found that it was indeed connected with a valve so that in the winter the roof melt could be directed to the city sewer and in the summer to the outside. The valve was stuck in the position to divert the water to the city sanitary sewer system (photo). In June of



2010 Dave said that Newman Grove had 12" of rain. The roof is approximately 106' X 106'. If I did the math right, that calculates to 11,236 cubic feet or 84,051 gallons of inflow from the roof in that June alone.

Dave was quick to credit Newman Grove Public School for cooperating with the City to correct the problem. Now he says that the City has to address the additional runoff issues around the school. There is always a tradeoff.

I wonder, how many more buildings are out there that are designed the same way?