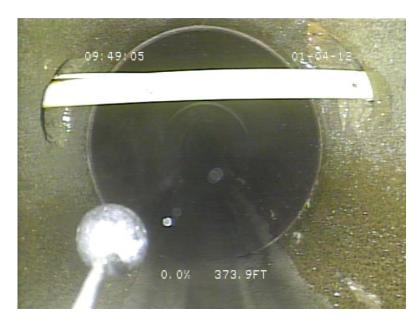
# Overview of PG&E Cross Bore Inspection Program

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#### **Cross Bore**

- Unintended conflict between two underground utility systems
- Associated with trenchless construction methods
- PG&E inspections focusing on natural gas system conflicts with wastewater collection systems including private service laterals
- FES retained by PG&E to conduct the inspection program



1" Gas Cross bore



## Why is PG&E Conducting This Program?

- Desire to operate a safe system
- Minimize risks to customers, wastewater operators and drain cleaners
- Occurrences in PG&E's system
- Increased awareness of this issue nationally
- Acknowledgement of potential risks due to construction methods (trenchless)
- Regulatory compliance (DIMP)



**Gas Cross Bore** 



## **Trenchless Construction Methods**

Pneumatic Percussive Boring/Piercing (gophers)

Mainly used for service installations

Horizontal Directional Drilling

Main and Service installation method – reduced construction cost, minimal surface impact/restoration, increased production



Piercing Equipment
Photo courtesy of Ditch Witch



Horizontal Directional Drilling Equipment
Photo courtesy of Ditch Witch



# FES Program Strategy

- Research available records for construction method(s)
- Focus on construction methods and system wide replacement programs

Trenchless construction

Copper Service Line Replacement Program (CSRP)

 Accelerate identified priority location inspections (schools, hospitals, churches, high population density areas)



#### **CSRP**

- Program started in 2009 focusing on replacement of copper service lines
- Approximately 34,000 service lines have been replaced to date
- High level of CSRP activity in San Francisco (16% of system total)
- Replacements have occurred throughout service territory
- Replacements range from individual isolated lines to all services on a given block

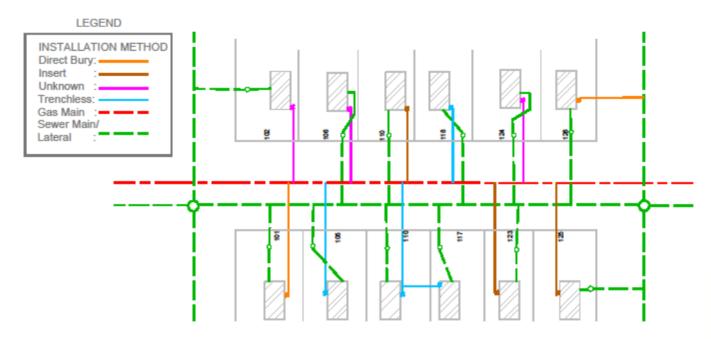


Tom Blum shows the flakey evidence of corrosion in the copper pipe.

Photo courtesy of IBEW website

### **New Construction**

- New construction or gas main replacements
- Some service lines replaced others transferred
- Scanning gas records, currently in San Francisco, will move to other Divisions in future (developing & documenting process)
- San Francisco focus due to high customer density
- Researching main/service installation methods to focus inspections on trenchless construction





## Goals of Cross Bore Inspection Program

- Minimize risk to customers
- Create documented system/method for cross bore investigations
- Discover and fix cross bores
- Create traceable records for future reference
- Complete inspections of all potential cross bore locations



Excavated cross bore



# FES Inspection Methodology

- Conduct lateral launching inspections (from main) to the structure
- Utilize push cameras when unsuccessful with lateral launching equipment
- Collect GPS data points (manholes, main tap locations, clean outs, entry to structure or point beyond gas meter)
- Conduct LACP coding of inspected laterals



Lateral launching camera



# **Anticipated Problems**

- Main diameters 6"≥ difficult to lateral launch
- Flushing and cleaning required for acceptable inspection (FOG, tree roots, debris)
- Limited access to laterals (6"≥ mains, no clean out, yard traps, backflow devices)
- Structure access required (customer coordination, removal of toilets, roof vents access, etc.)
- Installation of clean out required
- Existing wastewater system structural defects
- Standing water limiting inspection video quality



Push camera operation



## Steps Prior to Inspection Scheduling

- Research PG&E records for trenchless construction locations
- Identify areas to inspect
- Create shape files for gas facilities (geo-referenced)
- Obtain associated wastewater system maps
- Overlay wastewater facilities onto shape files
- Gather required permits
- Assign contractors to identified areas



Shape file indicating construction, CSRP and Wastewater Information



# Performing Work - Slide 1

- Insert lateral launching camera into sewer main and access /locate all tap locations (GPS) between manholes for each reach investigated
- Clean mains as required to gain acceptable video (flush, dewater, root clearing, etc.)
- Launch camera into each lateral capturing GPS coordinates (tap, clean out, entry to structure)



Typical camera truck



# Performing Work - Slide 2

- Utilize push cameras when lateral launching unsuccessful (clean laterals as required)
- Investigate all branch laterals
- If video attempt unsuccessful, GPS locate extent of attempt and create proximity waiver based on gas service location if possible
- If unable to issue proximity waiver due to uncertainty of underground locations install clean out to complete inspection



Manhole camera launch



## When Cross Bores Are Found

- If cross bore is not gas, notify owner of sewer
- If cross bore is gas, stand by until repair crews arrive
- Contact responsible wastewater operator
- FES to document surface condition prior to excavation
- Conduct repairs to sewer (Wastewater Operator standards, UPC) and relocate gas line
- Document occurrence of cross bore
- Re-inspect sewer facility post repair (provide sewer owner with video upon request)
- Repair all associated surface improvements (street, sidewalk, landscaping, etc.)



Relocated gas line



#### Post Video Collection

 Contractor will provide three levels of quality control.

> Camera Operator observation Front office review Back office LACP (lateral assessment certification program)coding

- FES will conduct further statistical sampling of videos based on a frequency to be determined
- Videos will be linked to shape files for future reference/traceability



Tree root intrusion



## Required Cooperation for Success

- Access to wastewater facilities adjacent to PG&E trenchless construction
- Wastewater maps (hopefully electronic)
- Ability to dispose of debris flushed/cleaned from system to allow video inspection
- Wastewater system construction standards
- Inspection support when repairs are required on your system
- Agency notification when defects found
- Prompt notification if contractors are not performing work correctly





Avoided Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO)



Structural failure

## **Notification**

- PG&E customer communications will be included in this effort
- Door hangers will be placed on all CSRP customer locations relaying the message to "Call PG&E before you clear"
- Calls to PG&E related to the CSRP hangers will be routed to FES for follow up
- Notify cities/agencies prior to initiation of inspections within their jurisdiction
- Video inspection contractors will place door hangers at all locations to be inspected at least one week prior to video capture activity
- Door hangers will be placed after inspections to report the results



## Future Cross Bore Program

- Develop schedules for all anticipated work
- Expand program to all PG&E Divisions that utilized trenchless construction
- Determine overall program costs based on current effort
- Evaluate expansion of the program to new construction
- Continually improve the program based on varying field conditions



New main installation



## Thank You For Your Attendance

Please contact me directly if you have any questions, concerns or require clarification.

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