



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Sewer Line Smoke Testing, Manhole Entry and Flow Measurement**

In late March or April, field crews from JM Davidson Engineering, D.P.C. ("JMD"), a sub-contractor to engineering firm Arcadis which is performing work for the Niagara Falls Water Board ("NFWB"), will be conducting smoke testing of the sanitary sewer system in the LaSalle neighborhood, west of Love Canal, between 81<sup>st</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> Streets. Field crews from JMD and TECsmith, Inc., will be wearing brightly colored safety gear with logos visible. In addition, personnel from the NFWB may be present with NFWB vehicles.

Smoke testing is a standard method of detecting defects in the sewer system. The process involves placing a high-capacity blower on top of a sanitary manhole and blowing "smoke" into the sewer system. The smoke that is used is non-toxic, non-staining, harmless, white to gray in color, and has no odor. The smoke will escape the sewer system through leaks or cracks in the pipes or low vents in the system. You may see field crews in the area opening manholes, walking through the neighborhood (including yards as necessary to complete the work), taking photographs, and documenting the smoke sightings.

During this same timeframe, staff from TECsmith, Inc., will be performing sanitary sewer flow measurement during the hours of midnight to 6:00 AM to identify potential sources of groundwater infiltration. Field crews will be opening and entering sanitary sewer manholes located primarily in the street. This work needs to be conducted when most residents are not using plumbing devices that contribute to sanitary sewer flow.

A detailed notification letter with frequently asked questions about the proposed field work will be hand delivered to residences within the study area and can be found on the NFWB website at [NFWB.org/news](http://NFWB.org/news). For more information, please contact Daniel Seider, Project Manager for Arcadis, at (716) 667-6670 or [daniel.seider@arcadis.com](mailto:daniel.seider@arcadis.com).

For more information on the NFWB, go to: [www.NFWB.org](http://www.NFWB.org).

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**About the Niagara Falls Water Board:**

The Niagara Falls Water Board is a public benefit corporation created in 2002 by a special act of the New York State Legislature. Its mission is to provide safe and reliable water and wastewater management services to our community in an economical and efficient manner. In 2003, it acquired the drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems previously owned and operated by the City of Niagara Falls, a separate municipal entity. It owns and operates a water treatment plant, a wastewater treatment plant, a pumping station located in the Niagara Gorge, two elevated water storage tanks, seven lift stations, and more than 500 miles of water and sewer service lines. The Water Board serves nearly 19,000 residential, commercial, and industrial users. The Water Board also supplies water to and maintains the public fire hydrants in the City of Niagara Falls.