

MOVING on UP

EPOFC brings Envirosight to Valdosta, Georgia

Valdosta had to make a change. For years the city had a good relationship with an independent contractor that handled inspections of its sanitary sewer system. But of late, the equipment was showing its age; often not working and with no local resources, a decision had to be made.

“We had to weigh the pros, cons and costs,” said Ron Hood, Utility Design Coordinator, City of Valdosta. “Do we keep on the way we are going and develop strategies to deal with the down time or do we acquire the equipment and do the inspections ourselves?”

With deliberation and careful consideration, the city hosted several demonstrations from a variety of manufacturers. “We chose Envirosight,” said Hood. “The features we got for the price was the right combination for us,” he explained.

And with this acquisition, Environmental Products of Florida deepened its reach into its neighbor to the north, Georgia. “Although our presence is new in Georgia, we bring a tried and true product line,” said Casey Meehan, EPOFC Georgia Territory Manager. “I knew it was the right

system for Valdosta and it’s good to see them using it more and more every week,” he added.

Rovver Outperforms

Experience taught Valdosta some important lessons and these helped the city make its decision. They selected Envirosight’s Rovver 125 Switchback system with Wincan Version 8 software. It’s a Switchback trailer mounted system; not tied to a single vehicle, but can be towed to any location for quick, consistent deployment. “This gives us excellent flexibility and greater reliability,” said Hood. “If the camera system is attached to a particular truck and that truck is down for any reason, so is the camera. With the Switchback, the camera is ready when you need it every time.”

And in the first 6 months, the new sewer camera is proving itself a very useful tool. In one instance, crews were able to locate two manholes that had been buried for about 15 years. An operator sent the Rovver in a known and documented manhole and followed the line to make the discovery. Without Rovver, Hood



said locating missing manholes is costly, time consuming and much less precise. In a community with more than 300 miles of pipe and 6,000 manholes, the Rovver is a key player.

In another instance, crews were working on a section of the major trunk line of the sanitary sewer. The flow had been diverted close to the treatment plant to do maintenance on a particular section of pipe. But water was still flowing in the closed-off section. “That shouldn’t be,” explained Hood. Before Rovver, Hood had very few options to track down the problem. On that day, Rovver got the call and found a bad joint,

spewing 150-200 gallons a minute of storm water into the waste water system.

Hood and crews from Valdosta’s water department admit to being “rookies” and needing more time to explore all of the systems’ features and functions. But in a short time, their Envirosight sewer camera system is providing improved efficiencies in routine jobs and beyond. “The Rovver system has energized the staff,” said Hood. “And as we learn more and more, we find new ways to use the camera system to assist in our duties and responsibilities to the city and its infrastructure.”