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SUPERINTENDENT'S PROFILE AND PRODUCT - SERVICE STORY



**TOWN
OF
EAST GREENBUSH
HIGHWAY DEPT.**



Commissioner

Commissioner of Public Works
Anthony Corellis
and the Town of East Greenbush

Vector Sewer Cleaning Trucks Assist With Maintaining Aging Infrastructure



No-dig technologies that include using a Vector sewer cleaning truck are effective tools for a municipality or a contractor to maintain or rehabilitate aging infrastructure instead of having to replace it.

The Van Lare Water Treatment Plant's underground pumping station moves millions of gallons of wastewater every day, and, like many of the state's wastewater facilities, the 1916-built plant operates well past its useful life expectancy.

We hear about the nation's "infrastructure deficit" frequently in the news with the underground infrastructure system in New York State being one of the oldest in the country — and it shows.

Broken or backed-up pipes can cause sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) and pose a serious health risk, catch basins may easily overflow during heavy rains if they have not been cleaned regularly, and residential areas frequently face flooded basements and service disruptions. Replacing deteriorating pipes would seem to be the inevitable response — but trenchless technologies such as cured in-place pipe lining (CIPP), regular maintenance and cleaning can be less costly, more efficient alterna-

tives.

The town of Penfield, N.Y., lists a number of much-needed sewer-specific public works projects for 2015 including the cleaning of 19 pumping stations, 65,000 ft. of sanitary sewers and 35,000 ft. of storm sewer that are scheduled for hydro-flushing and vacuum cleaning utilizing a Vector truck the town recently acquired.

No-dig technologies that include using a Vector sewer cleaning truck are effective tools for a municipality or a contractor to maintain or rehabilitate aging infrastructure instead of having to replace it. Once the cause of a blockage has been identified, the truck creates a negative pressure in the debris body to move material out of the blocked pipes. A hose attached at the front of the unit disperses water through a custom-size nozzle to flush the pipes clean. The hose also can be used to inspect

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Municipalities Look to Be Proactive by Taking Trenchless Infrastructure Approach

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problematic pipes (main and laterals) by attaching a JetScan video nozzle. And to avoid a large capital expense upfront, renting a Vactor Combo unit has become a popular option to get familiar with the truck's capabilities or fill a short-term or emergency need.

With increasing age and the congestion in the metropolitan areas of NYS, there is a significant municipal demand for professional services to keep underground infrastructure intact, floods to a minimum and the ground water clean. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation estimated that \$36-billion is needed over the next 20 years to meet the state's wastewater infrastructure needs. Inspection and cleaning have become top priorities for many superintendents and public works departments.

"Our major cleaning season for sewers and catch basins runs from April to November, and during this time we always rented a Vactor Sewer Cleaner Combination unit [Combo 2100 Plus] from Joe Johnson Equipment [JJE] in Feura Bush, about 8 miles south of Albany," explained Lee Venette, chief mechanic at the department of water & water supply with the city of Albany.

"Their rental trucks are always ready-for-work, and JJE works with us to make sure we get what we need. As the demand for sewer cleaning increased, we purchased our unit from them this year, and we now rely on their shop for our parts, service and maintenance needs, and not just for the combo but also for our other equipment. We are very happy

to have found a solution to keep the downtime on our units to a minimum."

While some of the state's townships have a fleet of sewer cleaning trucks and operators on staff to maintain their infrastructure, most of them also rely on independent contractors to keep their operating budget in check.

"Our business has been growing aggressively with more and more demand for sewer and storm drainage cleaning and rehabilitation across the northeast, specifically in New York State," said Ryan Arold, vice president trenchless of Arold Construction in Kingston, N.Y.

As an experienced provider of trenchless and civil services for a large number of municipalities beyond New York State, Arold has acquired more and more equipment over the last few years to keep up with all the business coming its way, and it takes pride in its modern fleet of ready-to-work Vactor trucks.

Shovels in the ground are often expensive, disruptive and pose obvious safety concerns. Instead of digging up the state's landscape to replace aging infrastructure, New York State's municipalities are trending to be more proactive and have now taken a trenchless approach. This lightens their budgets, is less disruptive to traffic flow, and is an effective method to provide drainage improvements by focusing on rehabilitation and maintenance over replacement.