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PAC PROGRAM© PRESS

May 2004

The History and Future of PACP©

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As many of you know, the Pipe Assessment and Certification Program© originated from the coding system developed by the Water Research Centre (WRc) in the UK. A review of how the WRc coding system developed is both interesting and beneficial in understanding the role PACP© can play in the United States.

At one time, the water industry in the United Kingdom was comprised of several hundred utilities providing water and wastewater collection and treatment services, much like here in the US. However, in the 1970s the entire industry was re-organized into ten large public water authorities. The boundaries were generally defined based in river drainage basins, and thus they received names such as Wessex Water and Severn-Trent. At the same time the need for a standard way to conduct sewer pipeline condition assessments led, in 1978, to the development by WRc of the first Manual of Sewer Condi-



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tion Classification (MSCC 1st Edition).

Later, the UK government made the decision that the ten public water authorities should be privatized. They were essentially sold by the British government to private companies, who were then responsible for operating the water and wastewater utilities in the UK. The government realized however they needed some mechanism to insure that the private companies main-

tained the water and wastewater infrastructure at an acceptable level of service. Also it was recognized that a means of quantifying the amount of money needed for renewal within the rate structure was essential. WRc developed the next version of the Manual of Sewer Condition Classification (MSCC 2nd Edition) in 1988 and that became the standard for sewer pipeline assessment in the UK and in many other countries around the World.

In 2001, NASSCO retained the assistance of WRc to develop the PACP©. While the starting point for the PACP© coding was the

most recent version of the MSCC (3rd Edition, 1993), WRc had several improvements planned for the next version of MSCC (MSCC 4th Edition) that were incorporated first into the PACP© codes. One of the planned improvements was a more robust description of surface damage associated with H2S corrosion. Those improvements have since been implemented in the MSCC 4th Edition just completed earlier this year. In many ways the WRc 4th Edition is more similar to PACP© than to the MSCC 3rd Edition. At the same time, WRc was heavily involved in the development of EN13508, commonly referred to as the Euro Code. These codes represent a common language throughout Europe for the description of sewer condition. While the codes each nation uses are not the same, there is a common link between all codes that provides for integration of the data. Therefore there is now a mechanism for comparison of sewer pipeline conditions between the United States, the UK, other nations of the EU, as well as Australia and New Zealand.

ANNOUNCEMENT

By now, All Trainers should have received a notice of the policy change issued on May 5, 2004. It outlined the new Trainer Levels as well as a re-certification plan. If you need a copy of the statement, please email Heather Myers at heather@nassco.org.