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PAC
PROGRAM©
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PACP© FOR ENGINEERS

By Rod Thornhill

The PACP© training course provides an excellent opportunity to understand and apply the PACP© codes. But isn't the PACP© training just for those who code defects? If I am an engineer who doesn't operate a TV truck or code defects in the office, why do I need PACP© training?

PACP© Training is more than just learning how to code defects. For example a considerable amount of time is devoted to reviewing the various deterioration mechanisms and how they affect the longevity of a pipeline. The course describes a wide variety of conditions, pipe materials, liners, and defects the engineer may have never seen before. Attendees learn valuable information not only from the course material and the

instructor, but also from fellow attendees who perhaps have unusual projects, conditions, or perspectives. Also the course includes a review of the PACP© condition grading that translates the defect codes into a more comparable estimate of pipe condition.

Coding of CCTV defects can be thought of as a type of shorthand. As the wastewater collection system industry begins to converse using the PACP© codes, it is just as important to be able to interpret the codes as it is to actually code. Completion of the course provides the engineer the ability to look at a CCTV code report and understand what the

structural or O&M problems are, where the continuous defects are located, see pipe material changes, identify quality control problems, etc.

Many engineers may never have a need to actually code CCTV defects. The PACP© training provides an opportunity to experience what it takes to look at a CCTV image and decide what the appropriate coding would be. Many who go through the course express surprise at just how difficult the CCTV operator's job is since they have to not only interpret and code defects on the fly, but operate the camera, communicate with the crew members, deal with the elements, and still obtain acceptable video and audio quality. Much like a wastewater or soils lab in college, PACP© training provides a touch of real world experience that is invaluable.



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REMINDERS

- Be aware that the current Certified User and Trainer List is now available online for reference. It is alphabetized by last name and is also searchable by my name. If further verification is needed, please call Heather at 410-486-3500.
- Please remember that when you are scheduling a class, NASSCO must be notified **at least** 2 weeks before the class. We ask this so that we can be sure to have enough manuals and tests on hand as well as to keep your shipping costs down.
- We are still in the process of revising the Trainer Agreement, so please be aware that they will be sent out in the near future.
- If you have outstanding manuals, please email heather@nassco.org to indicate your plans/schedule.