



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth - Communications Office

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DATE: 10/18/2017

SUBJECT: Diagnostic testing of downtown sewer system scheduled for October 19 on West Michigan Street

BY: Pakou Ly, Communications

Diagnostic testing of downtown sewer system scheduled for October 19 on West Michigan Street

[Duluth, MN] - The City of Duluth Public Works and Utilities is working with Oneida Realty Company to initiative a diagnostic test to check for proper pipe connections and conditions of the sanitary sewer system in downtown Duluth. A smoke test will be conducted in sanitary sewer system along West Michigan Street between 2nd Ave West to 4th Ave West. This test will take place on Thursday, October 19 starting at 10 AM. For this diagnostic test, smoke will be introduced into the sanitary sewer system to identify flaws in the sewer pipes or locate illegal or inadvertent connections. The smoke is intended to fill the sanitary sewer system and will release from such cross connections and piping flaws. As a result, smoke can potentially enter buildings through cracks or dry or infrequently used plumbing.

Although the smoke is non-toxic and non-staining, it can emit a slight odor and can be an irritant to some people if inhaled. In the event that smoke is entering your office or building during the test period, pouring water down floor drains, sink drains, or toilets and ventilation will disperse the smoke. This test is similar to the one being conducted in the Lakeside neighborhood.

This test will help Oneida Realty Company identify and remedy any potential problems within the sanitary sewer system of their buildings and will help ensure a reliable system for all customers.

Anyone with questions should contact Phil Lockett, the City's consultant with MSA Professional Services, Inc. at 218-348-9161.

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