NOTICE!

TO: MCB QUANTICO STAFF, RESIDENTS & CONTRACTORS

SUBJECT: Smoke Testing and Sanitary Sewer Survey for MCB Quantico Mainside
(July 6 – August 31)

The MCB Quantico/Corps of Engineers via has contracted with TranSystems & Hydrostructures, LLC to perform physical inspections of the sanitary sewer system in your area (MCB Quantico Mainside). These inspections will involve the opening of manholes in the streets and easements. An important task of the inspections will be the **SMOKE TESTING** of the sanitary sewer lines to locate defects in the sanitary sewer system. This will involve blowing HARMLESS smoke into the sanitary system, to locate where unwanted storm water may be entering. This “Smoke Testing” will be conducted throughout the Mainside of the Base and will plan to start on July 06 and plan to complete no later than August 31 (The general plan is to get it completed in 4 weeks). This schedule can be somewhat shifted/changed depending on weather condition.

Hydrostructures (contractor) will send out the notification flyer to next working area(s) in advance: Hydrostructures will flyer an area at the end of a week for the following week’s work. If you receive notification flyer, the contractor will be working in your area for the next seven (7) days. If significant rainfall is experienced during the seven (7) day period smoke testing operations may need to be rescheduled. If the schedule is modified additional notification will be performed. If you have any questions regarding smoke testing in your area please contact either of the individuals listed below.

As a result of the testing, smoke may be seen coming from the roof vent stacks on houses & businesses, building foundations, manhole covers, storm inlets or holes in the ground. The smoke is **NON-TOXIC, CLEAN, HARMLESS TO HUMANS, PETS, FOOD AND MATERIAL GOODS, and CREATES NO FIRE HAZARD**. Persons with severe asthma should avoid breathing any smoke to avoid irritation. The smoke should not enter your home or business unless you have defective plumbing or dried-up drain traps. If you have any seldom used drains, please pour water in the drain to fill the trap. This will prevent sanitary sewer gases or odors and smoke from entering the building. Should smoke enter your home or business, you may contact a member of the smoke testing crew working in the area and someone will assist you in determining where and why the smoke has entered your home. The smoke will clear within a few minutes with proper ventilation.

Your presence at home or business is not required during the testing. All public works & safety authorities have been notified. We would appreciate it if you would share this information with your neighbors to prevent needless concern. Some common questions are answered on the reverse side of this notice.

Should you have any questions or concerns during smoke testing and sanitary sewer inspection, please contact:

Hydrostructures VA office: Jesse Ryan (757-631-7989)
PWB Commodities Manager: Hunho Kim (703-432-2466)

Very Respectfully,

Hunho Kim

MCB Quantico, G-F, Public Works Branch (PWB)
Water & Wastewater Commodities Manager
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about Smoke Testing (on Sanitary Sewer System):

1) **Is the smoke harmful?**
   - No. It may make you cough, but it is not harmful to your health and will not harm clothing, drapes, or furniture.

2) **What should I do if smoke gets into the house?**
   - If smoke enters your home or business during testing, open windows to allow ventilation and note the location of the smoke. Smoke will clear within a few minutes. Contact Hydrostructures VA office (757-631-7989) or MCBQ PWB Water&Wastewater Commodities Manager Hunho Kim at (703) 432-2466.

3) **What is the purpose of smoke testing?**
   - Smoke testing is used to find possible leaks in the sanitary sewer system. When you receive notice that smoke testing will take place, you should check to see that all drain traps under basins, washing facilities and floor drains have water in them. To do so, simply flush toilets and run water into all drains.

4) **I will not be home during smoke testing and have pets in the house. What should I do?**
   - The smoke is not harmful to pets. It would be a good idea to leave several windows partially open for ventilation, should any smoke enter the building. If you have proper plumbing connections and all of the drain traps have water in them, there should not be any problems.

5) **If smoke gets into the house, how long does it take to dissipate?**
   - This will depend upon how much smoke enters the building and how much ventilation you can provide.

6) **Can smoke stop up the sanitary sewer?**
   - No. The smoke is made of a vaporous substance.

7) **What happens if the city finds a bad sanitary sewer connection or lack of traps in a building?**
   - This information will be documented by Hydrostructures and given to the Public Utilities Engineering Division for review.

8) **Will rodents be smoked out?**
   - No, but the smoke will detect where rodents have
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