Overview

Unsurpassed in sensitivity, cornering ability and range, the new 12-inch See Snake represents the state-of-the-art in Remote Field Technology (RFT) inspection of metallic pipes. By combining some of the latest improvements in RFT technology with traditional pipeline pig designs, the 12-inch See Snake tool provides to municipal engineers the same type of information historically only available to oil and gas pipeline operators; with one major difference: “The See Snake tool determines the remaining wall of the pipe through internal scale and deposits.”

The 12-inch See Snake tool has been specifically designed to inspect the wall thickness of the pipe at variable lift-offs to accommodate wall thickness variations, pipe ovality, liners and internal scale. The ultimate goal of the tool is to provide accurate condition assessment information that will allow reliable planning for critical mains. Using the See Snake’s results operators will be able to determine the weak links in the line and address potential failures before they happen as a result of an external trigger.
Project Snapshot

• Where: Southern California
• What: Wastewater Force Main Inspection
• When: Summer 2012
• How: Tethered Inspection
• Why: To assess the current condition of an 8” line and a 12” line
• Distance: 2,000 feet inspected

When force mains break and water line leak under residential and commercial property, it’s a big deal. Unexpected repairs require shutdowns and often costly excavations. A great benefit of the SeeSnake tools is that with limited access, PICA can inspect long distances. This ability to inspect pipe without needing access at every location saves thousands of dollars per dig. Our reports save cities money by empowering them to make proactive decisions.

The SeeSnake was loaded into two force main for a client in California. Winches were set up at pre-existing manholes and pump stations and the tool was pulled through the line without any excavation needed. During this time, the tool was taking 360º readings every 1/4". The thickness data was merged with odometer information to produce an accurate representation of the pipe condition.

The Final Report contained the following information:

• PICA analyzed 70 joints
• We located and sized the three worst defects in each pipe joint
• Possible through-holes were seen in 6 different joints
• Average Wall Thickness was 91% (relative to its installation)
• Majority (59%) of corrosion at bottom of pipe

For more information about this project or how PICA can make your life easier, give us a call!

"Good Decisions Start with Good Information."

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