

SSO Webinar Part 2: SSO Volume Estimation: It's Not Your Grandfathers Tools & Techniques
Audience Questions & Speakers Answers
Event Date: May 15, 2012

Arturo Alvarez (to All - Entire Audience):

What are some different types of flow monitors that are used?

SPMUD uses Teledyne ISCO Model 4210 <http://www.isco.com/products/products3.asp?PL=2023010> and HACH / Marsh McBirney Flo Dar <http://www.hachflow.com/permanent/Flo-dar-flo-sta.cfm>

USD uses ISCO Model #4150

Al Javier (to All - Entire Audience):

Are your EDUs calculated flows or planning numbers?

SPMUD uses actual flow data and EDU totals to establish gallons per EDU. USD uses planning values to establish per EDU. I know of agencies that use water use data. I think the main concern is to be able to back up the value you use.

Al Javier (to All - Entire Audience):

For lower lateral spills, why not use the water meter usage as another indicator?

I think that is a valid method if you have access to that information. You would have to account for water used for irrigation. At the end of the day there is still some estimating to do. My District is a single service utility. Another agency provides water. It is not a simple, straight-forward task to obtain the water use information. A self-contained city might have easy access to water records.

elaine gutierrez (to All - Entire Audience):

How does altitude come into play, considering the specific gravity changes in higher altitudes?

I (Sam) have not considered this. My knee-jerk response is altitude has no (significant) affect on the flow of sewer and volume estimation. Someone smarter than me will have to field this one. I don't believe this is a significant factor in volume estimation of SSOs, however if someone was to conclude otherwise, they should include it in their documentation of their estimate.

Julie Berrey (to All - Entire Audience):

Sam - are there long term plans to publish this information with CWEA endorsement?

I would like to publish this information sometime. I'd hate to state a timeline at this point - just too many things on my plate. Feel free to bug me about it now and again.

Mandeep Chohan (to All - Entire Audience):

Have you done the same thing with clean out boxes?

Yes. SPMUD developed a 4-inch cleanout SSO simulator that is intended to simulate a mainline spill from a cleanout. We haven't done a lot of testing with it yet. We will bring it on our Hands-On training tour that will be happening in the next month or two. Watch for the advertisement.

Julie Berrey (to All - Entire Audience):

Are there plans to incorporate scripting for callers at time of notification to expedite flow of information (ie, is it flowing to a creek)?

Yes, we have done that to a certain extent already. The SSO Response Field Check List form lists a few suggested questions. Through Training, we have incorporated different scenarios. At USD, we find a follow up conversation to be more useful, as most calls end up being something other than a problem with our sewer. (face to face is preferred, but a phone call works too)