



DATE: March 22, 2022

TO: Todd Bennett, Manager, BOW/DWPC/FOS

FROM: Joseph D. Stitely, P.E., BOW/DWPC/FOS

SUBJECT: City of Cahokia Heights – Sewer Backup
March 15, 2022 Complaint Investigation

Late in the afternoon, on March 14, 2022, I received a telephone call from Nicole Nelson, Centreville Citizens for Change (CCC), regarding a complaint concerning a sewage back up at [REDACTED] Cahokia Heights, Illinois. Upon receipt of the complaint, I called Dennis Traiteur, City of Cahokia Heights. Mr. Traiteur indicated that the City was having some issues with a pump station in the area. He explained that there was an issue with the station's pumps, and they were supplementing the pumps with a diesel driven portable pump. I offered Mr. Traiteur the location where the backup occurred and suggested that someone from the city investigate and contact the homeowner.

Therefore, on the morning of March 15, 2022, I responded to the complaint. I met with the homeowner at the residence. I observed the raw sewage and sewage debris in the crawlspace. Looking in the crawlspace, I also noted two smaller pipes exiting the crawlspace underground. The resident indicated that the pipes were gray water discharge pipes that discharged behind the residence. According to the resident, they were having issues with their kitchen area sewage draining and they removed the cleanout cap within the crawlspace which caused the backed-up sewage to discharge into the crawlspace. At the time of my investigation, sewage was level with the top of the cleanout (see attached photograph). I also noted another cleanout cap in the yard of the residence. The resident indicated that the cleanout is for the plumbing in another portion of the residence, and they are two different service lines to the main. The resident removed the cleanout cap. Sewage was actively flowing in this service line. There was no evidence of backup in this service line. I called Dennis Traiteur and requested that they respond to the complaint.

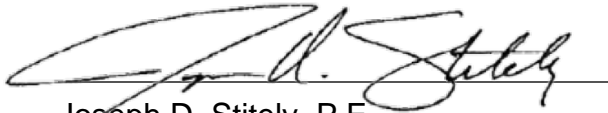
While at the residence, Van McCall, City of Cahokia Heights, arrived. Mr. McCall and I went nearest upstream of the residence, and he removed the manhole lid so that we could observe the conditions of the main. There was minimal flow in the main at the time of my investigation. Flow through the concrete trough within the manhole was visible. No evidence of a blockage was observed in the main upstream of the residence. Next, we went to the nearest downstream manhole and removed the manhole lid to observe the conditions of the main. Flow through the concrete trough within the manhole was visible. Again, there was minimal flow in the main. There was no evidence of a main blockage downstream of the residence. I asked Mr. Call if the city would jet the main to verify there was not a blockage in the main and he agreed. This information was relayed to the resident.

While at the residence, a neighbor arrived and complained about the stormwater drainage in the area. I noted that there was a stormwater drain adjacent to this residence. I observed that the stormwater inlet lid appeared have sank over time or crushed as the inlet opening was only about an inch to two inches in height. I also noted a significant buildup of trash within the drain. The neighbor also complained about sewage in a ditch behind his residence. I observed that the pooled sewage appeared to be gray water discharged from a nearby residence to the ditch.

After I left the residence, I received a call from the Dennis Traiteur, City of Cahokia Heights. Mr. Traiteur explained that they jetted the sewer main at the manhole upstream of the residence and jetted water was actively flowing to the downstream manhole. He explained that the sewage backup within the resident's cleanout continued. Therefore, it appeared that to be an issue with a blockage in their service line. I also told the representative about the stormwater drain issue. They indicated that the city would investigate it. Finally, I explained that there was gray water being discharged to a ditch in the neighborhood. I explained that all sewage, including gray

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water must report to the city's sewer mains. I further explained that the city needs to enforce their sewer use ordinance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.D. Stitely", written over a horizontal line.

Joseph D. Stitely, P.E.
Environmental Protection Specialist

JDS:Cahokia Heights Memo 031522/03-21-22

Attachments

cc: BOW/DWPC/FOS-Collinsville
Mike Roubitchek, DLC
BOW/DWPC/RU

[REDACTED], Cahokia Heights, Illinois

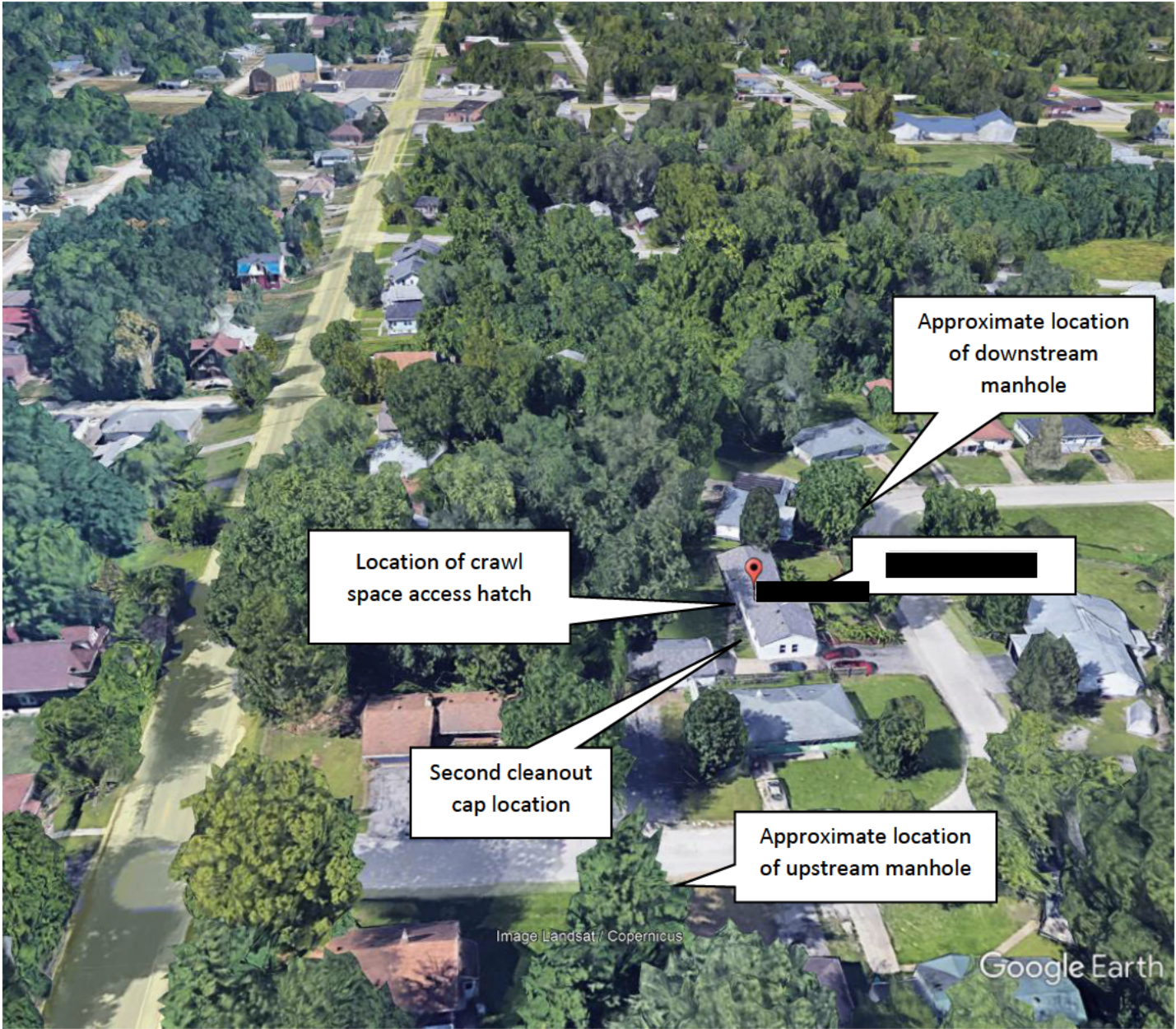


Photo # 001
Date: March 15, 2022
Time: 11:09 a.m.
Taken By: Joseph Stitely, BOW
Facility: Cahokia Heights
Location: Adjacent to crawlspace.
Notes: This is a photograph of
crawlspace access hatch in
the rear of the residence at
at [REDACTED]. Note
the sewage and debris
within the crawlspace.
landscape debris land
application site. Note the
slope of the site.

