



*City of Lawrence*  
UTILITIES

# 2008 Annual Report

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### A. Accomplishments

The Utilities Department made further efforts in the restructure of the department that began in 2007. Some of the changes that relate include bringing both field crews under one manager and redefining the department's safety team.

The department also changed the way that it receives public input. The department joined Kansas One-Call or 1-800-DIG-SAFE. In addition, we took on the role of first responder for all City infrastructure, including water and sewer pipes, storm sewers, and traffic light wiring. This decreased the calls that customers make to only one before they dig. It also further helps us protect our water and sewer lines and other City assets from being dug up or damaged. The department also hired a phone service to answer and dispatch after-hours calls. The phone service sends the calls to the correct person for faster response time. This also allows staff to focus on their job tasks rather than dispatching calls.

These changes helped us use our resources better, serve the public better, and be safer. These efforts made strides toward targets that address citywide goals during 2008.

The department remains ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, and EMS for Biosolids certified. The department is the only water and wastewater agency in the nation to reach this level. This combined management system helps make decisions, plans, and measure progress.

### B. Programs and Projects

The department took on many programs and projects that made room for future growth, improved service, and for general repair in 2008. Some of these include:

- Began building Stoneridge Water Tank for 1.5 million gallons of added drinking water storage.
- Continued expansion of the Clinton Water Plant. When complete, it will treat 15 million gallons of drinking water more each day.
- Added the West Baldwin Creek sewer line to allow growth in the northwest part of the city.
- Relocated 300 linear feet of 16-inch water main and 560 linear feet 18-inch sewer main along north Iowa Street and crossing I-70 prior to the Kansas Turnpike Authority widening and interchange improvements.
- Added Pump Station 49 to allow growth in the southeast part of the city.

- Replaced the Kaw high service pumps.
- Replaced the chlorine gas with liquid bleach at the Clinton Water Plant and began the same project at the Kaw Water Plant.
- Added automation and alarms to the water plants, using in-house staff skills.
- Added an asset database to help us make better decisions on where to replace old or problem lines.
- Updated and trained on the department's emergency response plan.
- Replaced and repaired brick on the Kaw Plant main building.
- Re-painted fire hydrants on the main streets of the City.
- Replaced large water meters for better measurement of water used.
- Continued the water main replacement program, based on age, condition, size, record of leaks, fire safety and water quality. Staff replaced 11,783 feet of water main.
- TV inspected and cleaned 2800 linear feet of 30-inch sanitary sewer interceptor upstream of Pump Station 16.
- Lined over 15,500 feet of sewer lines.

The department offers biosolids, treated solids from wastewater, to local farmers for fertilizer. Nutri-ject Systems hauls and applies the solids to area farm fields. R.D. Johnson Excavating removes the spent lime left over from water treatment and uses it for fill and building base.

The department plans a program in 2009 to control grease entering the sewer lines and make sure the grease is disposed of properly. This program will help area food service and other businesses manage their waste grease and keep it out of the sewer pipes. The department hopes to reduce line clogs, back-ups into basements, and reduce cleaning and repairs on sewer lines for both the business and the City's lines.



Left: The department raised the bowl on Stoneridge Water Tank in late fall. Stoneridge Water Tank will store 1.5 million gallons of drinking water when done. It is located at the northwest corner of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Stoneridge Drive.

C. Awards and Recognition

In 2008, state and national groups recognized the department for our service. These awards included:

- Kansas Water Environment Association – Wastewater Plant Award
- Kansas Water Environment Association – Plant Safety Award
- U. S. Environmental Protection Agency - National Clean Water Act Award – 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Large Biosolids Project
- American Consulting Engineer Award (for Pump Station 16)

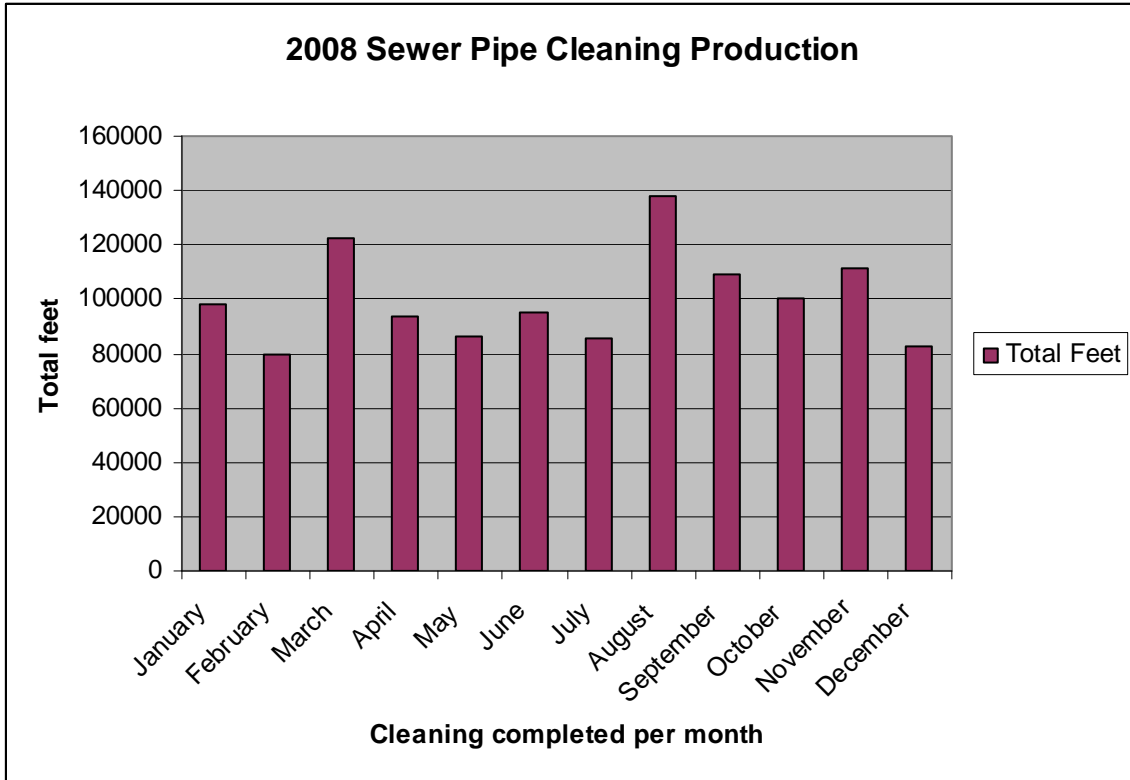
D. Community Outreach

The department took part in various public outreach events in 2008. The department held public meetings for building projects. All plants gave tours to schools and community groups. We used a focused method to tell the public about specific topics, including the result of grease and tree roots on pipes.

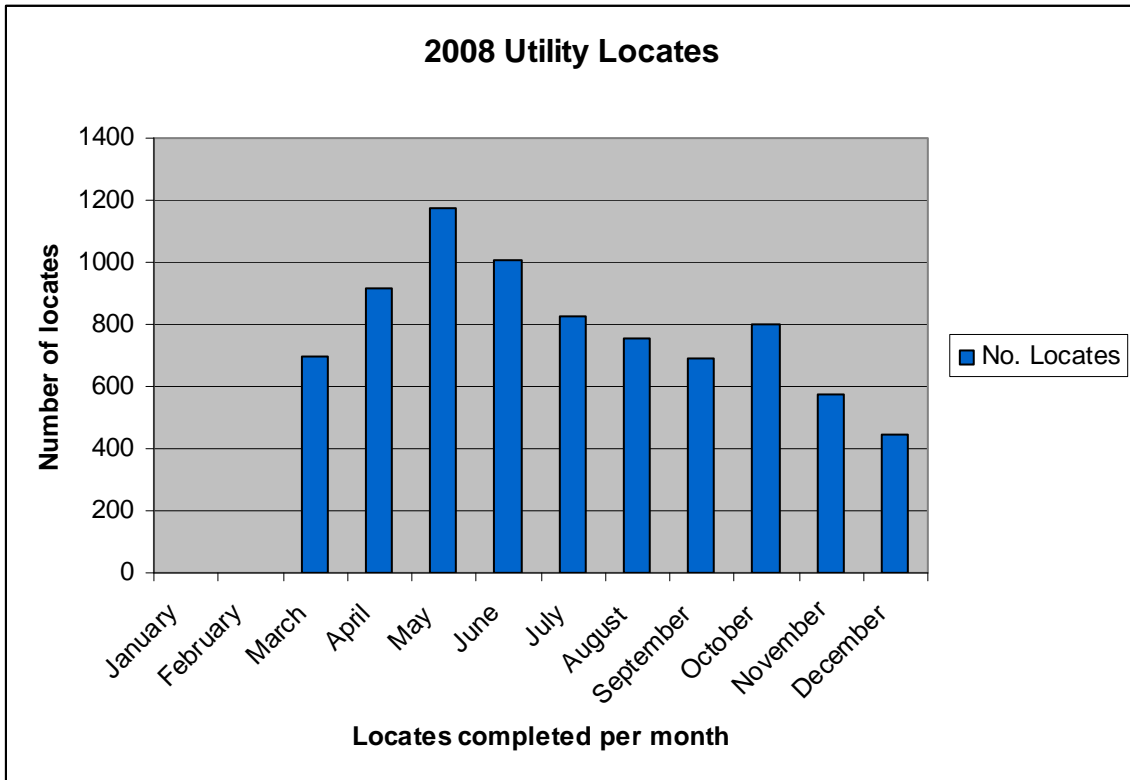
E. Performance Measures and Other Statistics

The department uses the following data to judge how we are doing:

Measure	Quantity
Sanitary sewer overflows	20
Manhole repairs	186
City line locates	7876
Water line valves exercised	323
Fire hydrants flow tested	978
Water line installed (in feet)	11,783
Wastewater treated (in gallons)	3.964 billion
Drinking water produced (in gallons)	3.785 billion
Biosolids reused (in tons)	7828
Biosolids reused (in percent)	100
Number of work orders addressed	1998



Graph: The department cleaned over 1.2 million feet of sewer line in 2008.



Graph: Department staff marked nearly 8000 lines from calls placed with Kansas One-Call.

F. Audits and Compliance Reviews

The department audits performance with both in-house and outside sources. They review the management system and measure against the standards. The management system requires audits to look for ways to improve. The 2008 third party audit reported only minor findings that needed correction. The auditor also suggested other areas to improve. The department plans correction of all findings and look into the suggested areas to improve in 2009.

The department commits to a safe work place for staff, as well as the public. The department hired a safety expert to inspect all three plants and report his findings. We also hired him to train staff on safety programs and other hazards that relate to their jobs.

The department reviews regulatory compliance on a routine basis. These reviews confirmed all drinking water quality requirements met. One wastewater permit exception occurred, but was reported and corrected to avoid water quality impairment.

G. Summary

The changes in 2008 resulted in improved service that the public can count on. The department plans more progress in these areas and others in the next year and looks for ways to improve.