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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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~ Media Advisory ~

SPRINGFIELD TO SMOKE TEST SEWER LINES

A post sewer rehabilitation smoke test will begin on October 28 and end approximately October 31, 2009. The City of Springfield Public Works Department will smoke test selected sanitary sewer lines serving homes and businesses from Olympic Street to Industrial Avenue between 30th to 35th Street and Kathryn Avenue between 35th and 40th Street.

Background:

The purpose of the smoke test is to determine if there are defects or broken pipes in the system, by forcing smoke into the pipes and observing where it escapes (house vents, downspouts, surface area above sewer pipes, etc.) Smoke will enter a building only if there is a defect in the plumbing or an open window. Any smoke observed inside a home, business, or other property should be immediately reported to City personnel.

The City provides written notice to home and property owners at least 48 hours in advance of the test. In order to perform the smoke test, it may be necessary for City personnel to enter onto private property. Although the smoke does not have any long-term health effects, it may cause a temporary irritation of the nasal passages and unnecessary exposure should be avoided. Additionally, if occupants suffer from a respiratory ailment, such as emphysema they should not be in contact with the smoke.

For all customer questions on this issue, please call Springfield Public Works Maintenance Division 726-3761.