



The Metropolitan District

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**MDC'S HOMESTEAD AVENUE INTERCEPTOR EXTENSION (HAIE) SEWER PROJECT PAPER**  
**"THE FIRST PLANNED CURVED MICROTUNNEL IN THE UNITED STATES"**  
**NAMED 2011 OUTSTANDING PAPER FOR NEW INSTALLATIONS**  
*Innovative Technology Implemented for First Time in United States*

April 18, 2012

For Immediate Release

Hartford, CT – A technical paper on the curved portion of the Homestead Avenue Interceptor Extension (HAIE) Sewer Project entitled, "**The First Planned Curved Microtunnel in the United States**" won a top honor at the annual North American Society for Trenchless Technology's (NASTT) "No-Dig Show" event. Each year, NASTT selects two top papers from hundreds of submissions. Penned by MDC contractors Richard Palmer of Northeast Remsco Construction, Alexander Seilert of VMT GmbH, and resident engineer Leo Martin of AECOM and presented at the 2011 NASTT conference by Mr. Richard Palmer, the paper was selected as the 2011 Outstanding Paper for New Installations. The annual "No-Dig Show" is NASTT's educational flagship event, offering an impressive collection of quality papers, an exhibition area for trenchless companies to display their products and services, a series of specialized training courses, and special awards.

By way of background, in May 2010, the Metropolitan District (MDC) completed a portion of its Homestead Avenue Interceptor Extension (HAIE) sewer project using an innovative "trenchless" construction method to avoid underground utilities, minimize disruption to local businesses and commuters, and saved time and money. Using a state-of-the art construction method known as tunnel boring, a curved 150-foot portion of a 600 foot section of the interceptor sewer, beginning at the intersection of Church and High Streets, was tunneled entirely underground – thus limiting the need for road excavation required in traditional open-cut construction. Tunneling for the curved section of the project took 9 days. MDC contractors estimate that the project would have taken approximately 30 days to complete using open-cut construction.

The HAIE project included the construction of approximately 3,400 feet of 72-inch-diameter reinforced concrete conduit that connected the current Homestead Avenue Interceptor from Walnut Street to the existing Park River Interceptor (PRI) beneath Bushnell Park. Now completed, the new interceptor redirects and conveys sewage flows to the MDC's Hartford Water Pollution Control Plant for treatment, thus significantly reducing untreated overflows to the Connecticut River and enhancing the quality of life in the Capitol Region for decades to come. The HAIE is one of four MDC projects to receive funding under The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act through Connecticut DEP.

The HAIE is an important component of the MDC's \$2.1 billion Clean Water Project. One of the primary goals of the Clean Water Project is to eliminate combined sewage overflows to the Connecticut River and other area waterways, thus abating pollution of area streams and rivers and protecting public health. The first phase of Clean Water Project was approved by voters in the MDC's eight member towns in November 2006.

*North American Society for Trenchless Technology (NASTT) is a multiple disciplinary society of individuals and organizations with professional, utilitarian or environmental interests in trenchless technology. Its mission is to advance trenchless technology and to promote its benefits for the public and the environment by increasing awareness and knowledge through information dissemination; research and development; education and training; and partnerships with organizations and agencies interested in trenchless technology and its benefits*



## The Metropolitan District

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**About the MDC:** *The MDC is a nonprofit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929. The MDC provides water, sewer and household hazardous waste collection services to its member municipalities: Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor. In addition, under a series of special agreements, the District supplies treated water to portions of Glastonbury, South Windsor, Farmington, East Granby, Unionville and Portland.*

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