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## Replacement of faulty sewage pipeline in Tampa complete

Monday, November 2, 2009

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Crews work to replace the pipeline in Tampa.

**TAMPA (Bay News 9) --** Several Tampa residents are finally breathing a sigh of relief and a fresh one at that.

They don't have to worry about breathing in raw sewage fumes again.

"It was human sewage. I don't think I have to get any more specific than that," said Tampa resident Mike Kelly. "It was human sewage."

The city just finished installing a new 48-inch replacement pipeline, and it's now in service. Construction of the new pipeline took more than two years to finish.

It started at the Sulfur Springs pumping station just north of the Hillsborough River, and it ended at what's called the 26th Street interceptor sewer about five miles to the south.

The city says the new pipeline carries about one quarter of the city's wastewater.

Workers had to tunnel under the Hillsborough River, Hillsborough Avenue and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to run the new pipeline.

John Wasson says he remembers the same pipeline breaking in his neighborhood a few miles north. He recalls hearing neighbors call it a "sewer-nami."

"Yeah it shot up in the air," Wasson said. "And the last two houses to the south, the sewage went underneath the house and everything."

The original 12th Street wastewater pipeline was put into service in 1980. The city says it had a history of service disruptions.

In fact, the old pipeline broke twice since 2004. And since the pipeline is pressurized, the breaks required extensive repairs.

The city is confident the new pipeline will improve reliability.


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