



SEWER LINE INVESTIGATION

Asnuntuck Community College

MAY 4, 2023



PREPARED FOR

Asnuntuck Community College

CT Department of Administrative Services

Project No. BI-CTC-651

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1. Introduction

BSC Group, Inc. (BSC) is pleased to submit the following summary of findings and recommendations to the Connecticut Division of Administrative Services (CT DAS) following various investigations of the existing sewer system at Asnuntuck Community College (ACC) in Enfield, Connecticut. BSC performed this investigation in accordance with the applicable provisions of our On-Call contract with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Contract No. OC-DCS-CIV-LA-0045.

Background:

BSC attended a Project initiation meeting on February 8, 2023 with representatives from CT DAS and ACC facilities to review information provided by the school in advance of the meeting and to understand from representatives on the scene what issues occurred.

At the meeting, facility representatives indicated that in previous semesters, a janitor's closet wash sink, toilets and floor drains in the men's and women's restrooms on the ground floor on the eastern side of the building flooded. The clog was severe enough to require emergency jetting to release the clog. This flooding situation occurred a number of times during that semester.

Prior to the meeting, DAS provided to BSC the bid set for the Campus Renovations Project No. BI-CTC-437 for the renovations at ACC construction after 2015 at the campus. BSC reviewed the document and determined that Sheet No. P2.201 identifies a 4" sanitary discharge pipe running east by a set of bathrooms on the ground floor. From these bathrooms, the sanitary discharge pipe turns north in a main hallway, passing a café, before upsizing to a 6" pipe and exiting the building.

During the meeting, representatives indicated the bathroom identified on the above-mentioned sheet is the bathroom that previously flooded. Representatives expressed concern of a potential "belly" in the sanitary discharge, either caused by faulty construction or

settlement of base material beneath the sanitary piping. This belly, if severe enough in depth, could potentially cause the slowing or even stoppage of sewage as it exits the facility. This slowing or stoppage of sewage flow could cause a situation where solids and paper in the sewage could begin to accumulate over time, resulting in an eventual clog.

ACC Representatives also supplied to BSC a CCTV inspection that was performed at the time the clogs were occurring for further background information and comparison purposes.

Please find Sheet P2.201 attached as Appendix A with the sanitary discharge pipe highlighted for clarity.

2. Investigation

Closed Circuit Television Inspection:

A component of BSC's investigation is to ascertain the potential presence of a "belly" in the sanitary piping system in question. This physical observation is most easily accomplished through the use of a Closed Circuit Television Camera inspection (CCTV).

For this procedure, a small lighted camera on a long flexible lead is threaded into the sanitary system at a convenient system access point, such as a system clean out. The camera is designed to record the total distance it travels along the piping system and is also designed to be traceable, meaning the camera location can be identified below grade through non-invasive means using a locator wand on the surface. This allows the investigator the ability to pinpoint the location of a clog, or abnormality in the pipe at a precise location on the surface, potentially saving the need for costly investigative measures. The additional benefit of the CCTV inspection is the ability to examine all points in the discharge line for signs of clogging, damage, accumulated sewage, root encroachment, etc.

BSC contracted with Fletcher Sewer and Drain Services of Ludlow Massachusetts for the purposes of performing the CCTV inspection of the sanitary discharge piping in the location where flooding previously occurred.

Prior to the investigation, BSC identified three (3) potential cleanout locations in the floor slab as potential entrance points for the CCTV. The cleanout locations are identified in Appendix A by red circles.

On February 20, 2023, representatives from BSC, ACC, and Fletcher Sewer were onsite to perform the CCTV inspection.

At just after 9:30 am, the Fletcher contractor opened the primary in-line cleanout located at the start of the sanitary discharge run with the history of flooding. This

cleanout is located at the farthest point away from the discharge from the building and will allow the camera to pass all relevant connections that flooded in the past, including the floor sink in the janitor's closet, the women's bathroom toilets and floor drain, the men's bathroom toilets and floor drain, the 90-degree bend to the north, and the discharge to the sewer manhole located within the front plaza. The primary in-line cleanout is identified on Appendix A with a double red circle.

Documentation of Inspection

Fletcher Sewer and Drain provides with their service a USB drive with the recorded inspection saved for project record. Please see Appendix B for the 16-minute-long CCTV video of the inspection of the line.

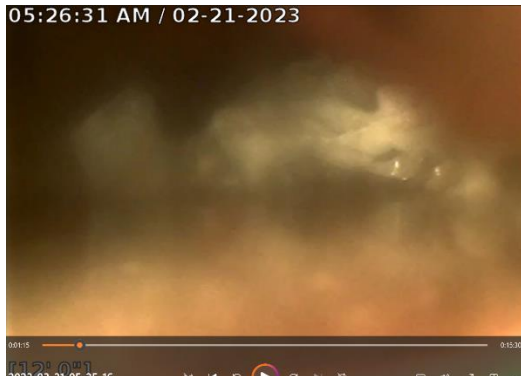
The major points in the video are documented below in order at which they were observed.

1. The clip starts with inserting the camera into the system and through the cleanout companion flange that closes off the piping while not in use. Once in the pipe, the initial view shows the apparent women's bathroom sink connection on the right and the janitor closet just beyond on the left (2'0" - 0:50 sec)



Green arrows represent inlets into line.
(disregard time shown on camera)

2. At 7'7", sewage level is above the camera lens.
3. At 12'0", the camera is just above the water level and waste in the form of toilet paper is evident in front of the camera. The important information garnered from this is that the flow is not blocked through this section since the camera is not below the water level. In the Fletcher technician's previous experience, the blocked sewage from 7' to 12' is simply a toilet paper blockage and will disintegrate quickly.



Toilet paper evident at 12'.

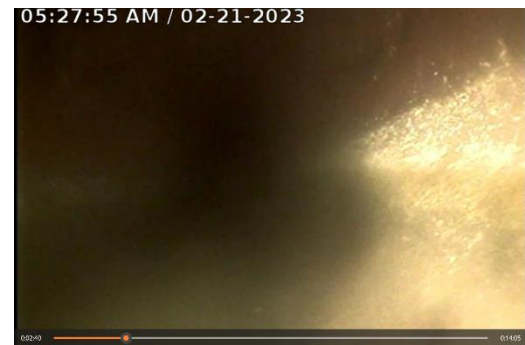
4. From approximately 12' to 38' the sewage is again above the camera lens.
5. At approximately 38'9" (1:28 sec.) the camera again enters free flowing pipe. The technician felt the camera pass through the two 45° bends shown on the plumbing design. There is additional evidence of toilet paper in the piping again potentially restricting the free flow of sewage from 12' to 38'.



Toilet paper evident at 38'.

6. From 39' through to 56' and beyond the piping

appears to be 100% clear and free flowing.



Pipe clear beyond 39'.

7. At approximately 66', debris collects on the camera lens and obscures the view. Speaking with the Fletcher technician, the camera is still sliding freely down the pipe, so there is no physical obstruction.
8. Although still obscured, there is evidence at 78' of free flowing material in the pipe (observed on the lower left corner of the screen where flowing material flowing by the stationary camera is evident.)
9. At 86', the piping transitions from Ductile Iron Pipe to green PVC. At this time BSC requested the Fletcher Technician to field locate the camera from the surface. The camera was ultimately located approximately 5' from the front planter area in the entry plaza, outside the building.



Green PVC Beyond 86'.

10. The technician extended the camera out to 129' 8" with no obstructions, at which point further extension was halted to prevent the potential for getting stuck in a manhole.

3. Analysis

Analysis of the CCTV inspection, as well as other information collected throughout this investigation, reveal a number of relevant facts that can be used to develop potential theories why there is a history of flooding in the bathrooms and janitors closet in question. They include (in no particular order):

1. Upon performing the CCTV investigation, it was apparent the piping beneath the slab in the building is Ductile Iron Pipe (D.I.P.). D.I.P has a history of interior deterioration overtime, causing scale to form and in some cases, begin to delaminate from the interior sidewalls of the pipe. This delamination can pull away from the walls, creating a sharp edge that debris can snag on and get stuck.
2. There were two locations in the section of piping investigated that showed accumulated sewage of enough volume to cover the camera lens (the camera is approximately 1.5" high). These areas were easily pushed through with the camera manually by the Fletcher technician, and in his experienced opinion, the blockages were most likely caused by an accumulation of toilet paper only (most likely on the bottom of the pipe). There was no apparent damage to any of the piping observed, and no apparent evidence of a "sag" or "belly" in the system accumulating sewage. All clear piping appeared to be flowing freely throughout the entire investigated run.
3. Toilet paper is designed to break down relatively quickly in sanitation systems. However, there is industry wide anecdotal evidence that many other products make their way into toilets every year, such as facial tissues, paper towels, sanitary napkins, "Flushable wipes", and quite often cloths or pieces of fabric. These products do not break down with the rapidity of toilet paper and pose

a much greater risk in causing a blockage that will not disintegrate over time. These materials also have a high potential to "snag" on the delaminated layers of D.I. pipe mentioned in item 1, above.

4. Through conversation with ACC facilities representatives, it was determined that a regular maintenance schedule for the building sanitary piping, consisting of routine cleaning and other measures, has never been implemented.
5. Also through conversations with ACC staff, the flooding events apparently occurred over a defined time-period in 1 semester, after which the line was water-jet cleaned. There is a possibility the issues observed at the college were the result a single individual using an excess amount of toilet paper, or some other temporary cause at that time.

4. Summary of Findings and Recommendations

Given the above information provided to BSC from representatives from ACC and gathered through the CCTV investigation, a number of theories to the origin of the flooding could be constructed, all with relatively equal likelihood of occurrence.

Therefore, BSC cannot definitively determine the root cause of the flooding. What BSC can provide are the following summary of findings:

1. The sanitary piping observed during the CCTV inspection did not identify any evidence of "bellying" or "Sagging" in any of the piping observed. Therefore, no slab cutting or physical alteration of the existing sanitary piping is necessary.
2. The CCTV inspection did not identify any substantial clogs or buildup that caused undue concern or need for immediate corrective action. Those open areas that were observed are free flowing, draining to the exit point from the building.

Recommendations:

BSC would like to offer the following recommended maintenance regimen to ACC to mitigate the potential for clogs or flooding to occur in the future:

1. CCTV Inspection (Ever Year)
 - a) The night prior to a period of low flow (weekend or day when the college is closed), the toilets in the men's and women's restrooms should be flushed consecutively to clear any minimal reduction in flow due to accumulated toilet paper.
 - b) 12 hours after the initial flush, perform a CCTV inspection to observe the condition of the sanitary piping system. Look for

scaling of the pipe interior walls that could cause a snag, "bellies" holding water, evidence of damage or excessive deterioration of the piping, etc.

- c) Record findings for future reference.

2. Jetting (Every 2-3 years)

A nozzle directs high-pressure jets of water against the pipe walls to clear debris and grease buildup and can clear blockages. Usually enters from the outlet point of the discharge and uses the force of the jet to propel itself up the pipe. Once to the end, the nozzle is pulled back out to clear any remaining debris.

3. Rodding or Snaking (as needed depending on severity of clog or delamination of interior walls of pipe)

Uses a rotating drive unit and rods with a rotating blade at the end that fits inside the pipe and scours the inside of the pipe clear of grease deposits, clogs, stuck debris, and pipe scale.

Rodding can be highly effective in clearing piping, but also has the potential to damage severely deteriorated piping and should be used only as specifically needed.

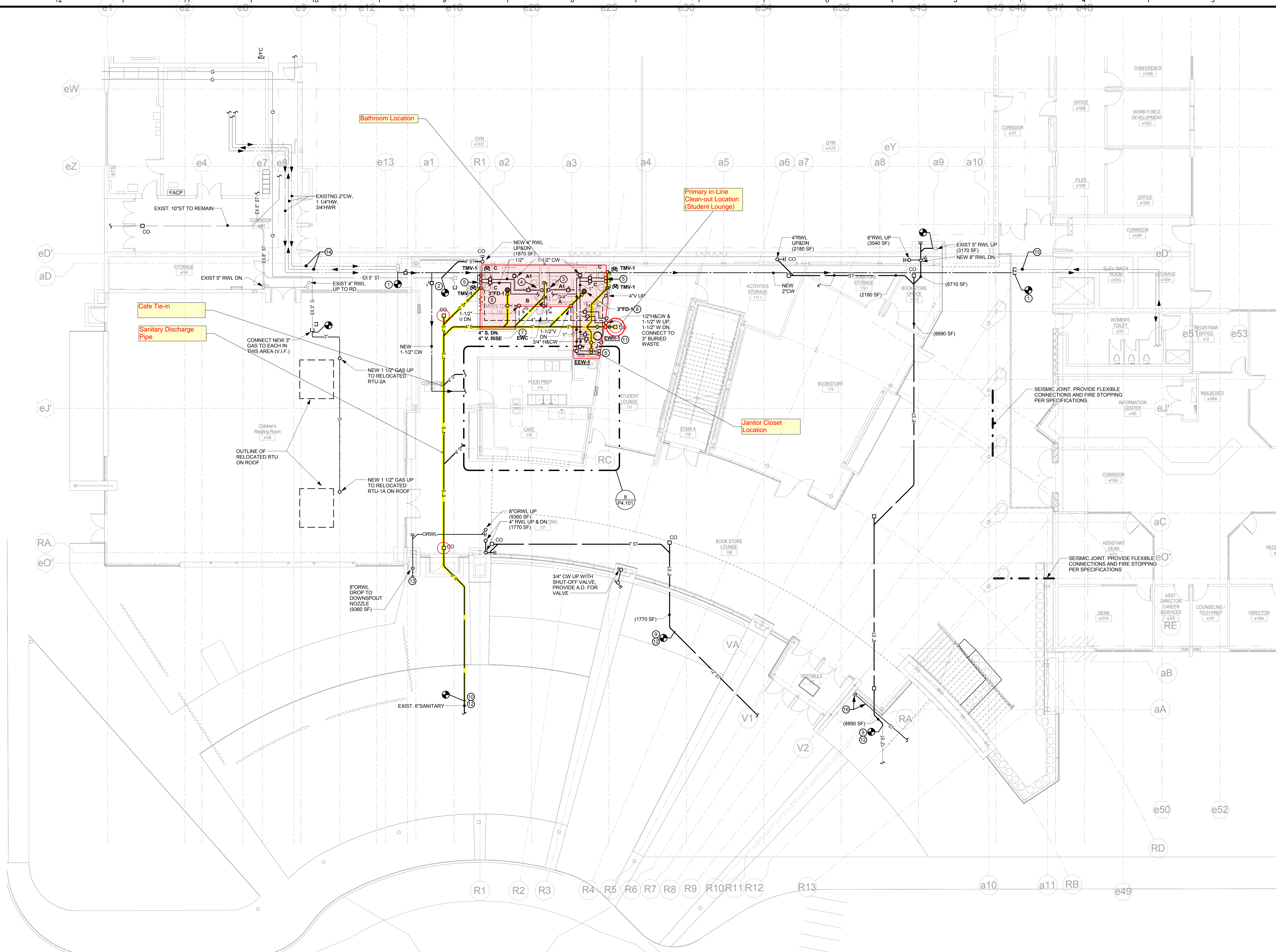
Conclusion:

Following the CCTV inspection and investigation of the actions taken in the past few years, the sanitary system associated with the historic flooding issues appears to be operating effectively at this time. BSC was unable to identify any significant issues with the building's sanitary sewer piping system that was investigated. With continued maintenance as recommended in this report, there is little evidence to suggest that the system will not function for the remaining duration of its service life.

Appendix A: "First Floor Plumbing Construction Plan"

Plan Sheet P2.201

- PLUMBING DRAWING NOTES**
- CONNECT NEW 2" CW TO EXISTING IN THIS AREA. VERIFY LOCATION IN THE FIELD.
 - CONNECT NEW 4" BURIED STORM TO EXISTING IN THIS AREA. VERIFY LOCATION IN THE FIELD.
 - 1 1/2" CW DROP TO EXTEND TO WOMEN'S WATER CLOSETS. PROVIDE WATER HAMMER ARRESTOR (WHA).
 - 1 1/2" CW DROP TO EXTEND TO MEN'S WATER CLOSET AND URINAL. PROVIDE WATER HAMMER ARRESTOR (WHA).
 - 2" W. DN. 1 1/2" V. 1/2" CW DROP TO LAVATORIES. PROVIDE TMV-1 AT EACH LAVATORY.
 - 3" W. DN. 1 1/2" V. 1/2" CW DROP TO JAN. SINK.
 - 1 1/2" W. DN. 1 1/2" V. 1/2" CW. DROP TO EWC.
 - INSTALL FLOOR DRAIN WITH TRAP GUARD AND DEEP SEAL "P" TRAP. SEE TRAP GUARD DETAIL ON DWG. #P4.101
 - CONNECT NEW BURIED STORM TO EXISTING 12" STORM IN THIS AREA. VERIFY LOCATION IN THE FIELD AND ADJUST AS NECESSARY. COORDINATE WITH CIVIL WORK.
 - CONNECT NEW 6" BURIED SANITARY TO EXISTING 6" SANITARY IN THIS AREA. VERIFY LOCATION IN THE FIELD AND ADJUST AS NECESSARY. COORDINATE WITH CIVIL WORK.
 - ELECTRIC WATER HEATER MOUNT HIGH ON WALL. PROVIDE SHELF AS REQUIRED. CONNECT 3/4" H&CW. PIPE T&P RELIEF VALVE TO DRAIN PAN AND PAN DRAIN TO JAN. SINK 6" ABOVE RIM. SEE DETAIL ON DRAWING #P4.101
 - NOTE: PLUMBING CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY EXACT LOCATION AND INVERT ELEVATION OF EXISTING BURIED SANITARY OR STORM PIPING AT THIS POINT PRIOR TO ANY EXCAVATION FOR NEW PIPING INSTALLATION. COORDINATE WITH CIVIL WORK.
 - OVERFLOW RAIN WATER LEADER. PIPE THROUGH EXTERIOR WALL & TERMINATE W/ J.R. SMITH #1770-B5-NB. NICKEL BRONZE DOWNSPOUT NOZZLE WITH BIRD SCREEN. COORDINATE FINAL LOCATION WITH ARCHITECT.
 - EXISTING 3/4" H&CW & 1-1/4" HW (140" F) - ABANDONED IN PLACE - DO NOT REUSE.
 - EXISTING 3/4" H&CW - ABANDONED IN PLACE - DO NOT REUSE.
 - 6" RWL FROM ENTRY ROOF - PIPE TO RAIN GARDEN. SEE ARCHITECTURAL AND CIVIL DRAWINGS FOR DETAILS.



1 FIRST FLOOR PLUMBING CONSTRUCTION PLAN
 P2.201 1/8" = 1'-0"

KEYPLAN

BVH
 integrated services
 STRUCTURAL, MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL, AND TECHNOLOGY

drawing title
FIRST FLOOR PLUMBING CONSTRUCTION PLAN

REVISIONS		
mark	date	description

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
 DIVISION OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

drawing prepared by
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 CAMPUS RENOVATIONS - ASNUNTUCK
 COMMUNITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

170 ELM STREET
 ENFIELD, CT

project number
 BI-CTC-437

date
 04-27-2015

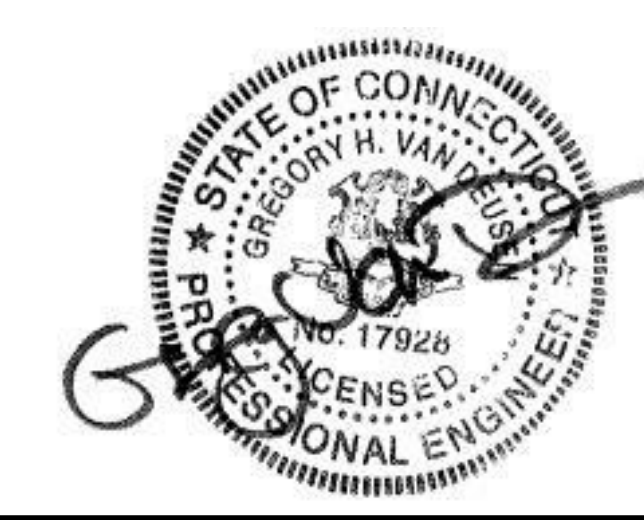
scale
 1/8" = 1'-0"

production leader
 IP

project architect
 J

peer reviewer
 J

drawing no.
P2.201



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MECHANICAL GENERAL NOTES

GENERAL
1. THE PROJECT DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS ARE BASED ON THE CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE (CSI) DOCUMENTATION FORMAT...

RENOVATION
1. THIS PROJECT INVOLVES THE RENOVATION OF AN EXISTING FACILITY, BEFORE SUBMITTING THE BID, CONTRACTORS SHALL VISIT THE SITE AND BECOME THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE EXISTING CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE PROJECT IS TO BE COMPLETED...

HVAC
1. PROVIDE THROTTLING VALVES AND SHUT-OFF VALVES AS SPECIFIED IN ADDITION TO THOSE INDICATED ON THE DOCUMENTS.
2. PROVIDE DUCT TAKE-OFF TYPES AND VOLUME DAMPERS PER THE SPECIFICATIONS AND DUCT TAKE-OFF DETAILS ON DRAWINGS...

MECHANICAL GENERAL NOTES (continued)
4. INSTALL SMOKE DETECTORS FOR AIR HANDLING EQUIPMENT PER THE MEP DETAILS.
5. PROVIDE AN AUTOMATIC TEMPERATURE CONTROL SYSTEM COMPLETE IN ALL REGARDS...

MEPT ABBREVIATIONS

- A GENERAL SERVICE COMPRESSED AIR
AA/AMP AMPERE
AC AIR COMPRESSOR
AC ALTERNATING CURRENT
ACD AUTOMATIC COOLING CONDENSATE PUMP

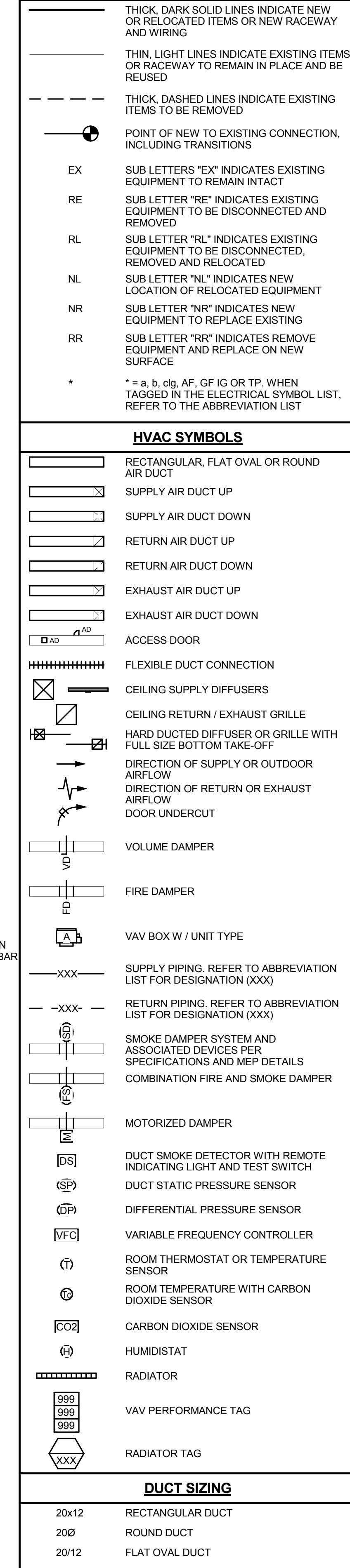
MEPT ABBREVIATIONS

- FDCSB FIRE DAMPER WITH INTEGRAL SECURITY BARS
FDV FIRE DEPARTMENT VALVE
FHC FIRE HOSE CABINET
FM FLOW METER
FMC FLEXIBLE METALLIC TUBING

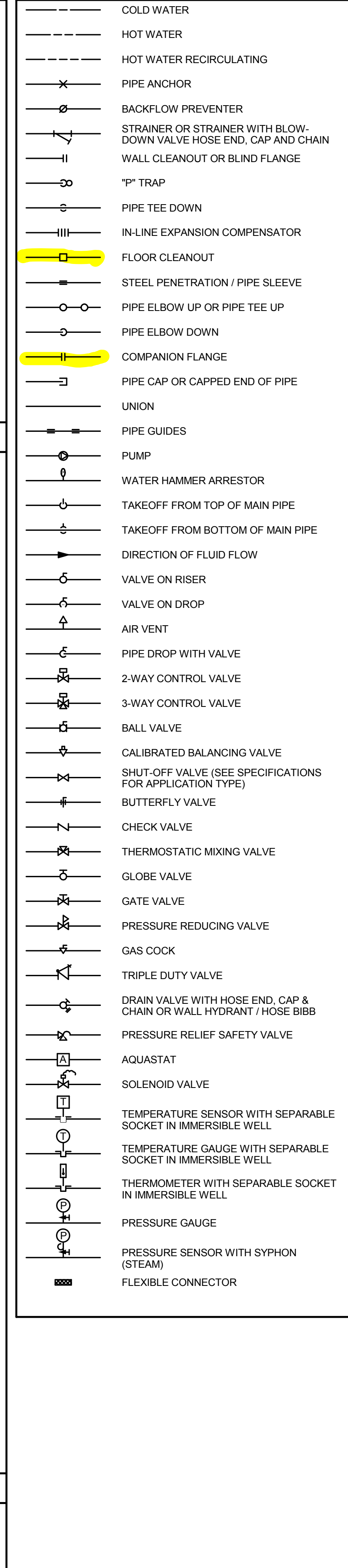
MEPT ABBREVIATIONS

- PH/O PHASE
PIV POST INDICATOR VALVE
PLENF PLENUM FAN
PLNF PANELBOARD

GENERAL SYMBOLS



FITTINGS AND VALVES



CODES LISTED BELOW APPLY TO ALL PLUMBING DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS ON THIS PROJECT

- 2009 CONNECTICUT STATE BUILDING CODE WITH 2009, 2011 AND 2013 AMENDMENTS
2009 CONNECTICUT STATE FIRE SAFETY CODE WITH 2009 AMENDMENTS
THE FOLLOWING AS REFERENCED BY THE ABOVE CODES AND AMENDMENTS:
2003 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE (IBC)
2003 INTERNATIONAL EXISTING BUILDING CODE
2003 INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE (IMC)
2003 INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE (IPC)
2009 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE (IECC)
2009 ICC/ANSI A117.1 - ACCESSIBLE AND USABLE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES
2007 ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA STANDARD 90.1 - ENERGY STANDARD FOR BUILDINGS EXCEPT LOW-RISE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS
2009 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE (IFC)
2002 ASHRAE/IESNA 17 - MINIMUM DESIGN LOADS FOR BUILDINGS AND OTHER STRUCTURES
1996 ASME A17.1 SAFETY CODE FOR ELEVATORS AND ESCALATORS WITH 1997 AND 1998 ADDENDAS
2009 CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH REGULATIONS

STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES
drawing title: MECHANICAL GENERAL NOTES, SYMBOLS, AND ABBREVIATIONS
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project number: BI-CTC-437
H0.101
revision table with columns: mark, date, description.

