

Electric effluent

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sew·er sō·ci·ol'ō·gy, the science of society, social institutions, and social relationships viewed through the eyes of a sewer; specifically, the systematic study of the development, structure, interaction, and collective sewer use of organized groups of human beings.

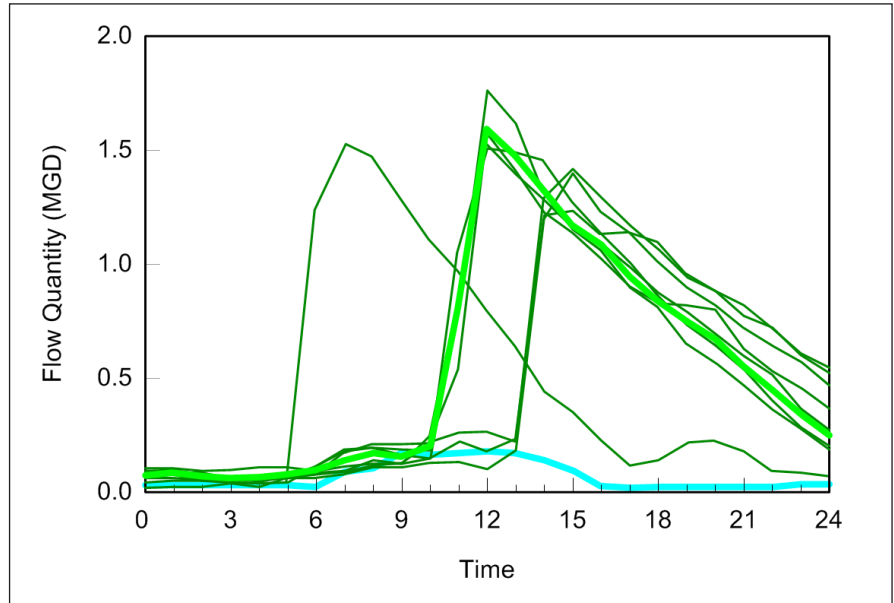
Most sewer flows are characterized by repeatable diurnal patterns that vary across weekdays, weekends, and holidays. Differences in land use also are apparent, and distractions and disruptions of daily life often can be observed.

This month, we take a look at electric automobile manufacturing through the eyes of a sewer.

Automotive manufacturing has long been an important sector of the U.S. economy. While the industry took a beating during the Great Recession, it has since made a strong comeback. With new technologies and new innovations, including hybrid and electric vehicles, the U.S. automotive sector appears to be well-positioned to grow in the post-recession economy.

The figure

Sewer use at automobile assembly plant



above shows sewer use data from an electric automobile manufacturing facility located in the U.S. Weekdays are shown in green, and weekends are shown in blue. Note that maximum weekday sewer use varies from day to day but the magnitude remains about the same – a reflection of shifting production schedules

at this facility. Industrial sewer use often is site-specific and varies greatly from one industrial facility to another, even for manufacturing facilities with the same market sector.

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