



## UNION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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### News Release

### Public Works Uses New Technology to Clean Water Mains and Lines

**March 5, 2014, Monroe, NC** – Union County Public Works is using a new technology known as ice pigging to clean water mains and lines. Ice pigging has been performed in Europe for almost a decade and recently made its debut in the United States. This is the second year Public Works has used ice pigging.

Ice pigging combines the operational advantages of flushing with the cleaning impact of soft pigging. Its advantages are:

- The ice pig behaves like a liquid and flow through changes in diameter, bends and fittings without blockage
- Removes biofilm, sediment and debris and will not harm pipes
- NSF compliant
- No excavation is required where suitable valve and hydrants exist
- Consumes a fraction of the water required for flushing
- Minimizes down time - usually 20 minutes to feed the ice into the network and generally a few hours to recover the ice pig and the cleaned deposits
- Lowers disinfectant demand

Public Works will perform ice pigging at the corner of Clontz Long Road and Highway 601 on Friday, March 7 at 9 a.m. Media is welcome to attend, but should bring a safety vest.

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