

## Gould Engineering Brings Data Delivery Services to Michigan City

Providing professional engineering services to the City of Grand Blanc since 1934, [Gould Engineering, Inc.](#) (GEI) located in Grand Blanc Township, is well versed in municipal flow monitoring. Founded in 1916, the firm offers services in the disciplines of Civil Engineering, Land Surveying, and Land Planning.

In 2007, when a new flow monitoring project from the City of Grand Blanc was awarded to GEI, the firm had a desire to investigate Marsh-McBirney's [Data Delivery Services \(DDS\)](#) that they had heard about through advertisements in national trade journals. A grant from the State of Michigan provided the financing for the project that included Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) studies for Grand Blanc's sewage discharges that came into the Genesee County collection system and then traveled on to the Genesee County treatment plant known as the Anthony Ragnone WWTP. Typical line sizes for the project were 8". In addition to the need for accurate flow data to identify problem areas within the collection system that in turn would eliminate I&I issues, data from the flow meters would also be used to assist in the calculation of sewage processing fees from the City to the County.



Dave Baker (foreground) assists in the installation of the Data Delivery Services flow metering network.

According to Steven Nagy, P.E., GEI Vice President/Treasurer and Director of Engineering, "The project includes ongoing I&I work for the City of Grand Blanc, a small community that includes approximately 9,000 residents in a 4 square mile area. In addition to seeing [DDS advertisements](#), a neighboring community is doing a similar project and they recommended DDS." The neighboring community is the Township of Grand Blanc where (36) DDS meters are installed. Having met with local Marsh-McBirney rep, Curtis Brzyski of Midwest Municipal Instrumentation, and DDS Business Development Manager, Dave Baker, Nagy states that 'we were led down the DDS path.'

With Marsh-McBirney Data Delivery Services (DDS) you pay only for sewer flow data and you don't have to leave your office to get it. There is no upfront capital expense associated with flow meter purchase, but instead a low monthly fee (no hidden costs) that provides DDS customers with accurate flow data from the award winning [Flo-Dar Radar Flow Meter](#) and any required maintenance is included! A truly 'hands off' approach to flow monitoring, DDS customers have

24/7 access to their flow data via any web browser so there's no need to visit sewer monitoring sites ever again, especially during rain storms!



Installing a digital cellular antenna at one of the Data Delivery Services sites.

For Nagy, DDS was the way to go for the City of Grand Blanc project. He adds, "We considered just buying the meters and doing the 'old process' of flow monitoring. It just didn't seem feasible and DDS is a lot more functional. Once you get the data that you need you don't really need the meters themselves, unless you're going to be monitoring your system indefinitely." The (4) Flo-Dar meters included in the 2-year DDS project have been providing accurate flow data since August 2007 and has allowed GEI to gather flow information related to

rain events. Nagy states, "The fact that you don't have to go out to the sites and can instead go to the web is a great benefit because you don't have to go out there during the middle of a rain storm!" One of the four meters included in the DDS project has been purchased by the City of Grand Blanc and it will be used for isolated areas for the foreseeable future to look for potential I&I issues.

Baker comments that the great working relationship with Steve Nagy and David Hiler of GEI contributed to the success of this DDS project. In closing, Baker adds, "If you watch the Buick Open golf tournament, you are looking at Grand Blanc's Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club. Grand Blanc is a beautiful place for a golf tournament, and it's been a beautiful place "FORE" flow monitoring sites. (You'd have to know Dave!)