

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM MCWANE DUCTILE

IRON STRONG INSIGHTS™

SPRING 2023



**McWANE
DUCTILE**

BUILDING IRON STRONG UTILITIES FOR GENERATIONS

How Much is
Enough? **The**
Importance of
SAFE YIELD to
the Water Utility

PG. 4

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- DI Pipe Lead Times
- Project Profiles
- Ditch Doctor Column



**McWANE
DUCTILE**

Contact Us: McWaneDuctile.com

Mike Dodge, VP Sales & Marketing
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Andrea Kubik, Marketing Manager

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IRON STRONG INSIGHTS™

McWane Ductile has been an industry leader in the manufacture of water distribution and infrastructure products since 1921. With three U.S. foundries, McWane Ductile offers superior service while supplying Ductile iron pipe across North America and beyond, all while maintaining an unwavering commitment to safety and quality. Through continued innovation, it is our goal to meet the customer needs and industry demands of the future in order to Build Iron Strong Utilities for Generations.

PG. 4

How Much is Enough?
**The Importance of SAFE
YIELD to the Water Utility**

CONNECT WITH US ON



Welcome to Iron Strong Insights™

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the spring edition of Iron Strong Insights. So far, this year has produced some extreme weather events with tremendous snow and rain. Just a few weeks ago, the rain event that hit Fort Lauderdale, FL, was termed a "once in 1,000 years" event, almost unprecedented. In those times when you need it the most, having a resilient and Iron Strong infrastructure really matters.

In his article detailing **Safe Yield**, Roy Mundy, Senior Regional Engineer, describes utilities' various concerns in ensuring a sufficient and clean water supply and how Ductile iron pipe can help minimize them. Coinciding with this article, the train derailment in East Palestine, OH, has produced many news stories in the last several weeks detailing the hazards of vinyl chloride. From the production of the raw material, transportation and contamination concerns, and even in-service cautionary articles on PVC pipe, it should give end-users a reason to pause and consider all aspects of a certain material when selecting the right one for their water lines.

It has been another very busy start to the construction season in 2023. In preparation for this continued demand, our facilities underwent significant capital improvements that have enabled McWane Ductile to significantly reduce the lead times for our products compared to this time last year. You can read more about this in the article entitled *Busting the Myth On DI Pipe Lead Times*.

As our staff has continued their engagement as exhibitors and presenters in numerous trade shows and conferences, we like also to point out that McWane Ductile offers a variety of training opportunities to our customers, from Lunch & Learns to a Day of Water events. You can learn more about these and many other resources by visiting the **Learning Center** on our website.

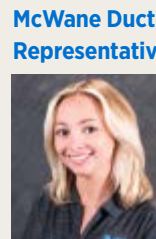
Finally, as we approach ACE23 in Toronto, a reminder that the entire waterworks group in the family of McWane companies will be there in Booth #2419, ready to assist visitors with any questions related to the various products and services McWane can offer. We always welcome the opportunity to discuss with true waterworks professionals how we can work together, Building Iron Strong Utilities for Generations.



Stuart Liddell
Sales Operations Manager
Sales Operations Department



McWane Ductile welcomes Ben Johnson, Sales Representative for ARIZONA, NEW MEXICO, AND EL PASO, TEXAS. Before McWane Ductile, Ben worked with Ferguson Waterworks for six years, starting in inside sales for four years and project coordination/management for the final two years. Prior to Ferguson, Ben was in the retail management industry with Target and Rent-A-Center. Ben is a University of Wisconsin Superior graduate with a B.S. in Business Management and a member of AWWA.



McWane Ductile welcomes Kate Alexakos, Sales Representative for MICHIGAN, NORTHERN INDIANA & NORTHWESTERN OHIO. Kate is a 2019 graduate of Miami University (Oxford, OH) with a B.S. in Education. She started her career in manufacturing with Ahner Industrial Fabrication. She lives in Sandusky, Ohio, where she grew up, and enjoys spending time with friends and family at Lake Erie and Cedar Point.



REGIONAL SALESPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARDED

Congratulations to McWane Ductile Sales Representatives who earned 2022 Salesperson of the Year in their respective regions. Those selected demonstrated outstanding performance in customer service, account management, specification work, customer training and presentations, internal/external communications, supporting marketing efforts, completion of assignments and overall leadership.



West Region
Nick Koncar (L) and Cris Howe (R).



Southern Region
Dustin Henderson (L) and Gary Gula (R).



Midwest Region
Chris Williams

How much is enough?

**THE
IMPORTANCE OF
SAFE YIELD
TO THE WATER
UTILITY**

By Roy Mundy,
P.E., ENV SP, ASSOC. DBIA,
McWane Ductile Senior
Regional Engineer



JUST WHAT IS SAFE YIELD?

This term refers to the amount of water available to be pumped to a treatment facility during a specified event, normally a record or 100-year drought. This term can apply to surface water sources (rivers, reservoirs, etc.) or aquifers. Factors affecting this quantity can be river flow-by requirements for aquatic life, saltwater intrusion of aquifers along coastal areas, evaporation/usage of reservoirs during droughts and water system customer demand — just to mention a few. Although a utility can attempt to mitigate this shortfall during warranted conditions by using various conservation measures, the goal of the utility is to increase its safe yield as it can directly relate to economic development, potential limiting of new customer connections or quality of life in general when ample water supply is limited.

WHAT ARE FACTORS THAT CAN AFFECT THE SAFE YIELD OF A WATER UTILITY'S WATER SUPPLY?

Natural Occurrences: Several effects of mother nature, such as a drought or even a weather disaster that may contaminate a raw water source, can create a diminished safe yield for a utility's raw water supply. Short-term solutions for curtailing safe yield volumes may include conservation measures imposed on system demands such as elimination or curtailment of irrigation, conservation rate structures, a requirement of xeriscape landscaping or possibly quantity limitation of customer usage, for example. Ultimately, the

utility should develop plans to obtain an additional water source or connect to a system with acceptable safe yields that could provide additional water supply even under these conditions. Aquifer raw water supplies also have a safe yield. When these systems are diminished by having more out-flow than in-flow, whether natural infiltration or pumped storage, the lower gradient in the aquifer can create significant issues regarding safe yield quantities available.

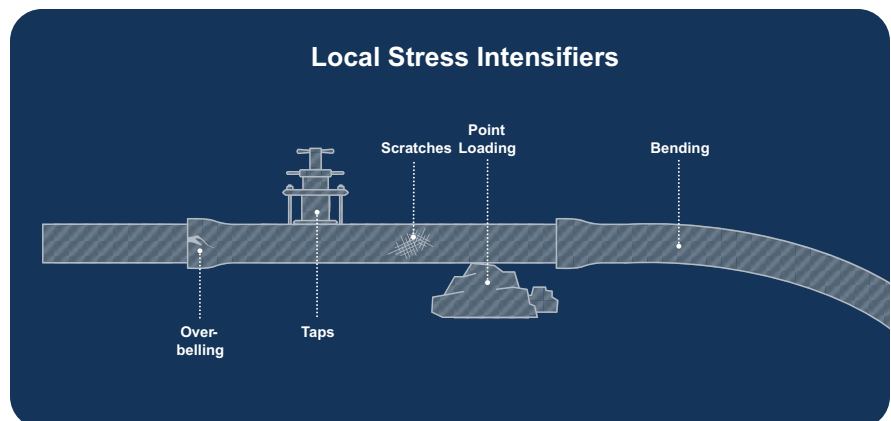
Man-Made Occurrences: Arguably, the over-use of an aquifer system by extensive pumping is a man-made occurrence regarding safe yield availability. Other extensive "opportunities" exist in our country wherein a water utility's raw water supply can be dramatically affected by man-made occurrences. One notable recent occurrence is the train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. "A prime worry is the train's release of vinyl chloride." The chemical — primarily used to make a plastic called polyvinyl chloride, or PVC — is classified as a Group A human carcinogen by the Environmental Protection Agency and releases even more toxins when burned. PVC is commonly found in many products, including waterpipes, medical

devices, vinyl flooring and siding. The environmental and health effects of plastic production are well documented. The process exposes workers and surrounding communities to vinyl chloride, asbestos and the industrial forever chemicals known as PFAS.¹ The East Palestine water system takes water from five wells roughly a mile from the derailment site. Fortunately, as of February 15, 2023, there was no indication of contamination of these five wells or the treated water.²

However, if circumstances were different regarding well or railroad track location, this vinyl chloride classified as a Group A human carcinogen could have contaminated the raw water supply, thus virtually leaving zero safe yield for that community. Water quality testing in East Palestine and surrounding communities continues.

SAFE YIELD STRATEGIC PLANNING BY THE UTILITY

It has been noted above some ways in which a water utility can, in a point source manner, stem its usage to stay within safe yield boundaries. However, another utility focus should be reducing



unaccounted-for water within its system. If a utility has a safe yield concern, allowing water to escape the system beyond acceptable limits may create the need for, or at least hasten, that need for an alternative supply — usually a costly proposition. One key component in minimizing and reducing unaccounted-for water is the proper selection of pipeline material. Obviously, the underground infrastructure of the water utility is out of sight — and many times, leaks underground are out of sight as well.³

When a pipeline is installed, certain “stress intensifiers” come into play over time. Some eventually cause leaks or ultimate pipe failure. Due to the strength and resiliency of Ductile iron pipe (DI pipe), these stress intensifiers have no effect as opposed to other materials such as PVC.⁴

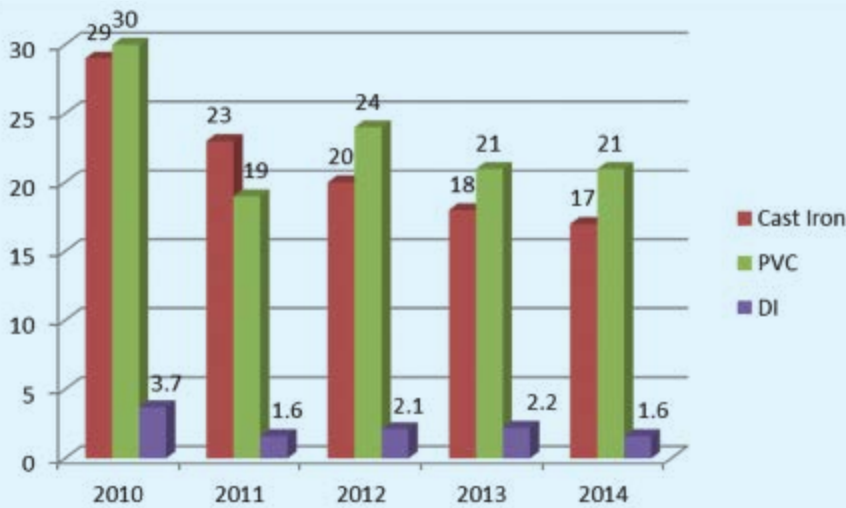
Research findings have shown that fewer leaks, and thus less water loss resulting from those leaks, occur in systems utilizing DI pipe as shown in the study by the University of Michigan entitled

“A Framework to Evaluate the Life Cycle Costs and Environmental Impacts of Water Pipelines.”⁵

Additionally, studies by utilities validate that using DI pipe can reduce volumes of unaccounted-for water over time as other alternate pipe material is replaced in the system with Ductile iron.⁶

Another validation of Ductile iron pipe’s sustainable ability to provide water service is the estimated service life of the material. The “Buried No Longer Report,” authored and published by the American Water Works Association, contains charts showing DI pipe to have a 105-year estimated service life. Other materials, including PVC, often have less estimated service life.⁷

There exist many essential components in running a successful water utility. The element of *safe yield* can seriously affect the water utility’s viability. Maintaining “healthy” *safe yield* volumes, even when selecting the type of pipeline material for the system, is critical.



▶ Frequency and average cost information collected from utility sources

▶ The cost of individual repair and maintenance is obtained from the literature (RSMMeans 2015, Haas 2012)

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ACE²³

COME SEE US IN TORONTO.

JUNE 11-14, ENERCARE CENTRE
Toronto, Ontario

Visit us at **ACE23 Booth 2419** and learn why McWane Ductile continues to be a trusted industry leader in water distribution and infrastructure products.



POCKET ENGINEER
Available for **iOS + Android**
or online at pe.mcwane.com



**McWANE
DUCTILE**

IRON STRONG



For Generations





Supply chain disruptions strained the global economy.



Employee shortages were widespread.

BUSTING THE MYTH ON DUCTILE IRON PIPE LEAD TIMES

By **McWane Ductile's Chris Williams, Sales Representative,** and **Scott Frank, General Sales Manager**

As many of us can attest, the last 24 months have been unlike any in recent memory regarding access to products and services critical to our daily lives. From food to vehicles to housing, we all experienced unprecedented shortages of items we usually took for granted. Planning was critical, waiting was often inevitable and frustration was a reality as we were forced to change our expectations.

Unfortunately, the waterworks and water utility industry was not spared from the shortages of finished products essential to maintaining and expanding drinking water systems nationwide. This article will discuss McWane Ductile's present delivery window to the waterworks community and will correct myths and misconceptions that our Ductile iron pipe products are currently unattainable.

WHERE DID SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES ORIGINATE?

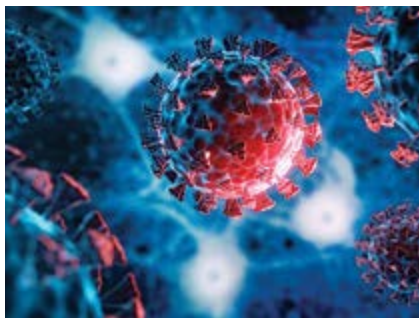
Specific to Ductile iron pipe, several factors converged starting in early 2020 that negatively impacted availability and lead times. COVID pandemic-related challenges, significant weather events affecting the U.S. Gulf Coast, labor shortages and supply chain disruptions strained every segment of our economy for an extended period. These challenges were unprecedented and difficult to predict.

WHAT DID MCWANE DUCTILE HAVE TO SAY THEN?

In April 2022, McWane Ductile published communications outlining the industry realities and supply chain issues taking place at that time. This piece also outlined our strategic response and commitment to improving product availability for our distribution channel partners and utility end users. See the link here for details on this specific article: <https://www.mcwaneductile.com/blog/how-multiple-events-collided-to-affect-ductile-iron-pipe-supply/>.

WHAT ACTIONS DID MCWANE DUCTILE TAKE?

McWane Ductile has been steadily implementing the plans outlined in the



COVID-19 created life-threatening challenges. Image Source: iStock



Ice and hurricanes hammered the Gulf Coast. Image Source: iStock



Construction zone for a new building to contain another oven at the Ohio foundry. April 2022 communications. Significant capital investments in our domestic manufacturing facilities have positively impacted our ability to service new and ongoing strong customer demand.

All three of our domestic pipe manufacturing facilities in Provo, Utah, Coshocton, Ohio, and Phillipsburg, New Jersey, have experienced strong results from the \$60M in capital investments. While still in the middle of performing these initiatives, we are continuously evaluating the need for even further enhancements in our facilities to meet future demands and customer expectations.

McWane Ductile has also invested heavily in our people, and our partnership with our Steelworkers' Union is extremely healthy today. For example, our Ohio facility approved a new contract five months before expiration with a healthy wage increase to attract quality, safe, hardworking men and women who are proud to be #IronStrong. Our workforce also works occasional overtime to build inventory as we head into the busier summer construction months.

WHAT ARE THE POSITIVE RESULTS OF OUR ACTIONS FOR YOU?

At this point, you are probably waiting for the punchline or the reality of this article. Using a "one-size-fits-all

statement" is difficult for all three McWane Ductile plants. Generally speaking, and at the time of this article's publication, the current lead times for McWane Ductile pipe products should not likely exceed 20 weeks. In some cases, depending on the diameter and class required, they may be as little as two to eight weeks after receipt of an order (ARO). It is important to contact your local rep for the most current information.

The takeaway is this: Due to our investments, today's lead times for some commonly specified Ductile iron pipe configurations have been reduced by 70% compared to last year, even as product demand has remained strong. Our increased manufacturing capacity has resulted in our ability to be flexible and nimble in special customer situations. We anticipate further improvements in product availability in the coming months as progress in our domestic manufacturing facilities continues and new initiatives are identified.

McWane Ductile pipe storage yards have returned and continue to remain at healthy levels.

SO, CAN I GET DUCTILE IRON PIPE OR NOT?

We all know and understand the importance of finishing a water main project on time and within budget. Unfortunately, many projects in 2022 were at a standstill, and Distributors, Owners, and Engineers were forced to supply alternate pipe materials due to the lead times and availability of Ductile iron pipe.

As mentioned here, those days are behind us. We are excited to say that if you want Ductile iron pipe, you

can easily get it within your 2023 construction season. Don't let others convince you otherwise; you can remain "an all-iron water system" and stay #IronStrong. So again, our clear message is that we are ready for your business and committed to your projects and protecting your specifications. It's time to get updated availability information on quality domestically manufactured Ductile iron pipe for your project. Contact your local McWane Ductile Sales Representative, who can provide more specific information for your project.



Floor is poured for two new high-speed casting machines.

HAVE OTHER WATERWORKS NEEDS?

If you have any other questions regarding your water or wastewater infrastructure project, reach out. We have team members who've managed small and large water utility systems, served in engineering consulting firms and bring decades of experience in solving field issues involving pipeline construction and operation. From design to submittal to installation, we strive to educate and assist water professionals.



PROJECT PROFILES



West PROJECT PROFILE

Less than an hour northeast of the California capital is the town of Colfax, CA. Nestled in the Sierra Nevada foothills, Colfax is a lovely community where some residents get their water through a water siphon system. Their siphon system needed an upgrade, and they chose McWane Ductile as their source for the Ductile iron required for this project.



The project schedule was tight and needed to be completed by a specific date to allow the homeowners to continue to have running water. Along with a tight schedule, this project faced numerous challenges, including a bore under a live railroad. The availability of McWane Ductile iron pipe allowed this project to be completed within the timeframe required while keeping water available to the homeowners affected by this system upgrade.

Lorang Brothers did an incredible job working through the challenges experienced during this project while completing the project on time. Core & Main West Sacramento is a great partner for McWane Ductile and continues to help projects run efficiently.



Sales Region: West
Sales Representative: Bill Kleczka
Project Location: Colfax, CA
Project Name: Hayford Siphon Replacement Project
Project Owner/Utility: Placer County Water Authority
Project Engineer: EKI Environment and Water
Project Contractor: Lorang Brothers Construction
Project Distributor: Core & Main–West Sacramento

Types of Ductile iron pipe used on the project:

DIAMETER	JOINT	CLASS	FOOTAGE
36"	TR Flex®	200/250	700
36"	Tyton®	200/250	900

Sales Region: Midwest

Sales Representative: Clinton Fowler

Project Location: New Albany, OH

Project Name: 24" Water Main for Harrison Rd Extension & Clover Valley Rd

Project Owner/Utility: City of New Albany OH

Project Engineer: EMH&T

Project Contractor: Complete General

Project Distributor: Core & Main-Columbus, OH

Types of Ductile iron pipe used on the project:

DIAMETER	JOINT	CLASS	FOOTAGE
6"	Tyton®	52	500
8"	Tyton®	52	1,000
24"	TR Flex®	52	3,000
24"	Tyton®	52	8,000



Many people have heard of the company Intel. At some point in your life, you have most likely had a computer with an Intel chipset for processing. In central Ohio, we are becoming very familiar with this company due to an announcement in January 2022 that it will spend \$20 billion to build two plants for semiconductor manufacturing in New Albany, Ohio. This project will bring "tens of thousands of indirect support jobs like contractors, suppliers, and consultants, in addition to employees and construction jobs." — JobsOhio.com, April 2023

In May of 2022, New Albany received \$85 million in grants from the State of

Ohio toward roadway infrastructure in anticipation of the Intel project. Then came the signing of the CHIPS Act in August of 2022, which was the push needed to get the project rolling. On September 9, 2022, Intel held the official groundbreaking ceremony for its facility, now dubbed "Ohio One."

The contractor for the project, Complete General, selected Core & Main – Columbus as the supplier for the more than 12,000' of 24" Ductile iron pipe, fittings and miscellaneous material needed for construction. Materials began arriving in late 2022, and installation of the project is nearing the completion target of summer

2023. Once in operation, a facility of this magnitude will consume a large quantity of water daily.

Core & Main with Complete General have been great partners working together, from planning and collaborating to navigating obstacles as they may have occurred. McWane Ductile thanks Complete General, Core & Main, New Albany and the State of Ohio for helping fund this project. With McWane Ductile being 55 miles from this site, we're proud to have been selected as the pipe manufacturer of such a high-profile project.



PROJECT PROFILE

Midwest





Northeast

PROJECT PROFILE



HRI, Inc. of State College, PA, was the low bidder on this \$30.7 million project for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The overall scope of the Atherton Street project consists of roadway reconstruction, drainage improvements that include pipes and inlets, water and sewer lines, concrete curbing, sidewalks, traffic signals and other miscellaneous items. This is the third in a series of corridor-improving work through the heart of State College, which will be completed in 2024. The project will help improve regional pedestrian and vehicular traffic safety while renewing subsurface infrastructure.

In 1947, Herbert R. Imbt founded a small construction company in State College, Pennsylvania, with only a few pieces of equipment. During the following decades, HRI, Inc., as the company was later renamed, expanded geographically to cover areas outside of central Pennsylvania, including much of central,

eastern, and western Pennsylvania. Operations also broadened to include paving, water, sewer, airport, highway, bridge projects, asphalt plants and aggregate quarries.

In 1999, HRI, Inc. was purchased by Colas, Inc., a worldwide leader in the construction industry with numerous construction businesses throughout the United States. Today, HRI, Inc. benefits from being part of a much larger organization while still maintaining local control over their activities and the close ties to the communities they serve.

They are a diversified construction company with highway, airport, water, sewer, treatment plants, bridges and paving expertise. They have the resources, management, technology and equipment to deliver quality projects on time.

They serve the communities through diversified public and private markets

within Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia. They value safety and the environment; our most important asset is their employees. HRI, Inc. has been a McWane Ductile customer since 1989. Ron Ritter, Utility Area Manager for HRI, Inc., noted that the symbiotic relationship between McWane Ductile and HRI, Inc. has benefited both businesses. HRI has been a reliable purchaser of Ductile iron pipe for their projects, and we have continually provided quality pipe at industry-leading prices.



Sales Region: Northeast

Sales Representative: Bob Hartzel

Project Location: State College, PA

Project Owner/Utility: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Project Contractor: HRI, Inc.

Types of Ductile iron pipe used on the project:

DIAMETER	JOINT	CLASS	FOOTAGE
4"	Tyton®	52	199
6"	Tyton®	52	163
8"	Tyton®	52	561
10"	Tyton®	52	36
12"	Tyton®	52	1,830
12"	Tyton®	56	72
16"	Tyton®	52	3,733

Sales Region: South

Sales Representative: AJ DeMatteo

Project Location: Henry County, GA

Project Name: Project Archer

Project Owner/Utility: Henry County Water Authority

Project Contractor: Alston Construction (GC), Crawford Grading (Subcontractor)

Project Engineer: Eberly and Associates

Project Distributor: Consolidated Pipe & Supply-Columbus, GA

Types of Ductile iron pipe used on the project:

DIAMETER	JOINT	CLASS	FOOTAGE
3"	Tyton®	—	—
8"	Tyton®	350	7,400
10"	TR Flex®	350	8,700
12"	Tyton®	350	5,800



Crawford Grading won the utility installation for Project Archer as a sub under Alston Construction out of Greensboro, NC. With considerable earthwork to be completed, Crawford began taking materials for the job first quarter of 2022, which included 8-in Ductile iron water and sewer pipe (onsite), along with some 10-in and 12-in Ductile iron for the offsite water pipe. Approximately 60% of this project has been completed, with all the offsite utilities installed and tested.

These Ductile iron lines will service a new 1,391,610-square-foot warehouse

facility for a major retailer, which will be located in close proximity to I-75 in Henry County, GA. Located just south of Atlanta, Henry County has experienced sustained growth for several years. One reason is the ongoing construction of various warehouses and distribution centers supporting the import and export of commerce at the Port of Savannah (GA).

Crawford Grading has installed a lot of McWane Ductile pipe over the years. Matt Crawford (President) stated that he has “always enjoyed the relationship we have had with McWane along with their distributor partner, Consolidated Pipe &



Supply.” He is looking to many more years of this relationship in the future.

PROJECT PROFILE

South





DEAR DITCH DOCTOR,

We had a bunch of Ductile iron pipes delivered last summer to a project here in Montana. The project got delayed, and now that the snow which once buried it onsite has melted, the inspector has rejected using this pipe because “it’s too rusty now.” Thoughts? Help? Suggestions?

Sincerely,
Bemused in Bozeman

DEAR BEMUSED,

Here’s the first truth about Ductile iron pipes ... they don’t rust; they oxidize. Rust is a structural issue; oxidation is cosmetic only. Ductile iron pipes actually begin to oxidize during production. This oxide layer remains microscopically thin on all pipe surfaces and reliably protects the underlying metal wall from further degradation. Now, this innate protective layer will not stall any actively corrosive environment the pipe might be placed in;

other simple protections are available to do that. Yet certainly, snow ... especially your clean mountain variety, is not corrosive to Ductile iron pipe or fittings. The “melt” might reveal more of the oxidation than you saw before (as it can dilute the water-based asphaltic sealcoat on the pipe), yet there is no cause for concern or need to address or replace the pipe condition. Ductile is sturdy. Ductile is resilient. Ductile is “the pickup truck of pipe”... tiny dings and scratches do not diminish its value, fitness for service, designed lifetime or warrantability. In four simple words, much ado about nothing!!

Sincerely,
The Ditch Doctor



DEAR DITCH DOCTOR,

I have a question about combining Tyton Joint® Ductile iron pipe and TR Flex® pipe. At some point in the pipeline we are constructing, it is no longer required to be restrained. Can a regular plain end piece of DI pipe go into that restrained type bell without being an issue or creating concerns?

Sincerely,
Wondering in Wichita

DEAR WONDERING,

It appears you’re asking if a plain Tyton spigot (no weld bead on it) can be used reliably in a TR Flex bell. That answer is simply and reliably “YES.” Just push the pipe fully home until the spigot bottoms out against the shoulder in the rear of the bell. Both spigot stripes will disappear well into the as-cast extended TR Flex bell cavity, and that’s OK. The rubber gasketed joint within is just as watertight as any other Tyton Joint assembly. No concerns there; it just is not “restrained.”

Simply put, the back half of a TR Flex bell is merely a fully conformant Tyton joint bell cavity. The front half of a TR Flex bell contains the restraining segments, in their dedicated channel, against the welded bead of a fabricated TR Flex spigot. No segments used = no restraint provided. While the bell is cast as a one-piece unit, the front and back sections operate independently, serving individual purposes. Watertight in the back, restraint in the front ... it’s basically the MULLET of PIPE!!

Sincerely,
The Ditch Doctor



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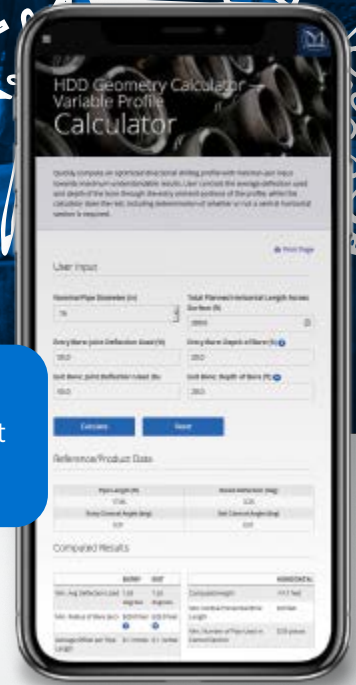
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