

World of Concrete PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Protective Coating Minimizes Pipeline Sewer Gas Deterioration

Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), the third largest water and sewer utility in the country, maintains over 3,400 miles of sewer line in a 946-sq-mile area.

For years, this agency has struggled to manage hydrogen sulfide 'sewer' gas and subsequent corrosive actions to pipelines. Hydrogen sulfide gas condenses and corrodes the upper crowns of metal and concrete pipes, gradually eating away the material. If unabated, the acid will cause structural failure.

Over the course of eight years, DWSD had tried to arrest the hydrogen sulfide gas deterioration in a 1,700-lineal-ft section of sewer line using a range of environmental solutions and coatings. High humidity in this particular pipeline limited success of most protective systems.

In fall 2008, the DWSD working with Refined Concrete Waterproofing Inc. (RCW) opted to try the Xypex solution. Xypex products are designed to protect concrete pipe and other concrete structures in sewer systems by preventing the



absorption of acid into the pores of the concrete where it reacts with calcium hydroxide causing sulfate attack which destroys the concrete.

DWSD opted to use the cementitious-based Xypex Concentrate combined with the Xypex Mega Mix protective coating. The non-toxic Xypex solution becomes an integral part of the surface while still allowing the concrete to breathe and is highly resistant to aggressive chemicals. As Xypex is water-based, it is not impacted by humidity.

Early one morning when the flow rate in the pipeline was low, applicators from RCW accessed the 11-ft diameter line to treat the upper portions of the sewer pipeline. Specially-trained confined-space applicator personnel completed the coating process with cooperation and assistance from the prime sewer contractor and city personnel.

Subsequent inspections indicate that the concrete deterioration due to hydrogen sulfide conditions has been arrested. ■

Leveraging Technology to Leverage Relationships

The commercial construction industry has and will continue to be built on relationships. Managing those relationships can be challenging. Keeping your vendor information up-to-date can require a significant amount of time – time better spent managing your projects. Finding the specific company information and specifications you need in order to meet the requirements of different jobs can also be a laborious process.

The Blue Book has been an integral part of the commercial construction industry since 1913 and understands today's business challenges. That's why The Blue Book has leveraged current online technology and the strength of its network to enhance its website, introducing a new way for construction professionals to manage their contacts online.

"My Blue Book" is an online information resource allowing registered users to customize the selection, sorting, viewing and storage of information found in The Blue Book database. The new functionality in this enhanced version of thebluebook.com also features "My Contacts" and "My Preferences" tabs allowing the user to access their private vendor information for easy reference or direct

communication purposes. This free application is available exclusively at The Blue Book of Building and Construction's website, thebluebook.com.

Some additional features of "My Blue Book" include the ability for users to control their "Preferences" and set their display to include any or all of the fields they choose (i.e. address, areas serviced, classification, certification, labor affiliation, etc...) and "Sort" contacts in the order they want.

Registered users of My Blue Book have the ability to keep personal notes on each company in their "My Contacts" (while The Blue Book maintains and updates pertinent company information). Users can easily view a company's ad, profile or click through to their website to find typical project size, year established, brands installed or other desired criteria.

Considering the current economic climate, maintaining productive relationships will only become more critical. Construction professionals who leverage technology to foster those relationships will be able to work smarter and be more productive now...and in the future.

For more information, please visit www.thebluebook.com/my ■

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