

Missouri Gas Energy Chooses 20-inch HDPE Pipe for Gas Distribution Project

The Project: After more than 60 years of service, it was time to retire the 19,000 feet of 24-inch cast iron pipe carrying natural gas through Kansas City, Missouri. Missouri Gas Energy needed to replace the old pipeline that ran underneath major roads to supply gas to established residential neighborhoods.

The Specifications: Missouri Gas Energy needed the pipe to carry 58 psi of pressure and a flow rate of 2,200 thousand cubic feet per hour (MCFH). For their specifications, 20-inch SDR 15.5 high density pipe was needed, which prior to this project, had not been used in a gas distribution pipeline.

The Solution: Performance Pipe manufactured the 20-inch SDR 15.5 high density pipe for the pipeline and 20-inch SDR 11.0 pipe for its fittings. By choosing HDPE pipe, Missouri Gas Energy was able to insert the new pipe into the existing cast iron pipeline. Performance Pipe provided the HDPE pipe in end-capped 50-foot sections, which were fused together on-site. Missouri Gas Energy opted to install double-jointed pipe by fusing two 50-foot sections together, then pulling the 100 feet through the hole before fusing it to another double-jointed section. The longest piece of pipeline pulled through the hole was 1500 feet. With 19,000 feet of pipe, approximately 380 fusions were made altogether.

The Satisfied Customer: "To us, 20-inch diameter pipe wasn't much different from 16-inch pipe, which we had used successfully in the past. We just needed someone to make it," said David Glass, Director of Engineering and Technology for Missouri Gas Energy. Despite the fact that 20-inch diameter pipe had never been used in gas distribution, the Kansas City project was very straight-forward. It was a natural choice based on the project's requirements."



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