

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM MCWANE DUCTILE

IRON STRONG INSIGHTS™

FALL 2023



**MCWANE
DUCTILE**

BUILDING IRON STRONG UTILITIES FOR GENERATIONS

Build America, Buy America Act (BABA): What Is BABA, What Has Changed & Where Do We Go From Here?

PG. 4

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**McWANE
DUCTILE**

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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

Build America, Buy America Act (BABA): What Is BABA, What Has Changed & Where Do We Go From Here?



Welcome to Iron Strong Insights™

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Fall edition of Iron Strong Insights. The season is fast transforming into cooler, more comfortable weather, which makes it perfect for outdoor activities such as attending football games. It is almost a shame that the season, especially in the South, is nearly over before we get to experience the much more pleasant game temperatures.

In my recent travels, I have seen some more telling signs of fall, including several state fairs and the beautiful fall foliage. Living in Florida, I do not get to see that too much, so it was nice to visit the Northeast recently and see the vivid colors before all the leaves give way to winter.

The onset of fall also signals that one of my favorite holidays is fast approaching — Thanksgiving. It is nice to gather with family and friends and celebrate all the good things the year has provided and reflect on what I have done to make things better for others. In that spirit, we recognize a few things that McWane Ductile has done in this issue to give thanks and give back to the wonderful

communities in which we operate. It is the spirit of community that binds us to one another and makes us all stronger.

Here at McWane Ductile, we have experienced another busy year. Each of our foundries has completed various capital improvements to make our operations more efficient and sustainable. This improved efficiency allowed us to improve dramatically over the lead times we started with in 2023. So, if you are ready to begin your Ductile iron pipe project, I am confident we can deliver the product to fit your needs.

The trade show season is once again winding down for 2023, but there are

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still a few opportunities to see our reps and discuss our products before the year ends. And if, perchance, you cannot attend any of these events, please check out our website and, in particular, our **Learning Center** for entertaining and informative content on all things related to pipe. We are very proud to announce that we have surpassed **200 Iron Strong Blogs** in 2023, a number I could not even imagine when we started this project just a few short years ago. We are equally proud to say that our content still generates much appreciation in the industry, making all the hard work worthwhile.

So, please read through this issue for various articles pertinent to the water and wastewater industry. Our Ditch Doctor series focuses on installation practices, particularly winter weather concerns. We have also included a cutout for two of our more popular tip sheets, our **Receiving DI Pipe Checklist** and the **Proper Storage and Care of Gaskets** to assist our customers in Building Iron Strong Utilities for Generations.



Stuart Liddell
Sales Operations Manager
Sales Operations Department

BUILD AMERICA, BUY AMERICA ACT (BABA)

By **Ashley Wright**, Assistant Vice President & Legal Counsel, McWane, Inc., and
Dustin Henderson, General Sales Manager — South, McWane Ductile

WHAT IS *BABA*? In 2021, President Biden signed into law the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which included the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA); however, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) only recently (August 2023) published final guidance implementing BABA, which went into effect Oct. 23, 2023. In short, BABA establishes domestic content requirements for federal financial assistance to be used for infrastructure projects. In other words, if a project receives federal funding for an infrastructure project, then the project must purchase and install "domestic" products that meet the requirements of BABA.

SO, WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF BABA?

First, it is essential to remember that BABA only applies to infrastructure, which is very broadly defined and would almost certainly cover water infrastructure projects. It also only applies to items permanently incorporated into an infrastructure project and does not apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks and portable computer equipment, used at or within the project but not permanently affixed or incorporated into the structure.

The next step is to determine which product category the item falls under as BABA divides everything into the following four categories:

1. iron or steel products;
2. construction materials (non-ferrous metals, plastic and polymer-based products, glass, fiber optic cable, optical fiber, lumber, engineered wood and drywall);
3. Section 70917(c) materials (cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives); and
4. manufactured products.

It is important to note that items and materials can only fall into one of these four categories. This determination must be made based on the item's status when it is brought to the work site for incorporation into the infrastructure project. This categorization is essential as each category has separate domestic content requirements.

Once you determine which category the item falls under, you must determine whether the item meets the domestic content requirements. For iron or steel products, in order to be "produced in the United States," all manufacturing processes for the iron or steel, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, must occur in the United States. There is a similar "all manufacturing processes" standard for construction materials, but there may be a specific standard for each construction material. For example, the manufacturing processes for non-ferrous metals, plastic, glass and drywall differ, and the definitions attempt to address those differences. For manufactured products,

which is essentially anything that does not fall squarely into the other three categories, it is produced in the United States if: (1) the product was manufactured in the United States and (2) the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55% of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product.



WHAT HAS CHANGED?

Not much has changed regarding McWane Ductile and our Ductile iron pipe products. McWane Ductile's products are predominantly iron and steel, and all the manufacturing processes for such iron and steel, from the melting to the coating, will occur at our foundries right here in the United States. However, regarding domestic content requirements generally, the larger infrastructure industry and federal financial assistance programs, BABA changes everything. BABA significantly expands the types of products affected by domestic content requirements and the number of federal financial assistance programs that now include domestic content requirements.

Prior to BABA, generally speaking, there were three main ways domestic content requirements would arise:

1. the American Iron and Steel Requirements (AIS), which apply to specific funding programs implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) — for example, Clean Water State Revolving Funds,

2. the Buy America requirements as implemented by the Department of Transportation and its administrations (e.g., Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Authority); and
3. the Buy American Act, which applies to direct federal procurement. Fast forward to today, and BABA now expands domestic content requirements to all federal financial assistance for infrastructure projects.

Furthermore, unlike AIS, which focused solely on iron and steel, BABA now potentially applies to anything permanently incorporated into infrastructure projects.

SO, WHAT HAPPENS TO AIS, BUY AMERICA AND THE EXISTING STATUTES?

Section 70917(b) of BABA expressly states that BABA does not affect existing laws meeting the requirements of BABA. Furthermore, the EPA has already said in its implementation guidance that AIS will continue to apply, and the DOT/FHWA has already stated the same in its Q&A concerning Buy America requirements.

As a result, certain agencies will continue to apply existing laws, like AIS, Buy America or the Buy American Act. Still, they will also need to determine which programs do not meet the requirements of BABA,

and we could potentially end up with a situation where both AIS and BABA apply or both Buy America and BABA apply.



Another noteworthy difference is that the OMB has given each federal agency significant discretion in implementing BABA. This will take the form of guidance and rules implementing BABA, but each federal agency is also tasked with issuing its own waivers. If you are familiar with AIS, then you may be familiar with the EPA's "Minor Components" waiver, which permits up to 5% of the total cost of all of the components for foreign miscellaneous minor components in an otherwise domestic iron and steel product, or the EPA's "De Minimis" waiver, which permits up to 5% of the project's total material costs to be exempt, provided the project sponsor keeps documentation as to the exempt items. Because each federal agency will have discretion as to implementing BABA and issuing waivers for BABA, thus far, we have yet to see much consistency in terms of the implementation across agencies. In other words, the requirements of BABA could mean different things depending on the federal agency or federal financial



assistance program funding the project. For example, the EPA has issued a minor components waiver for BABA, but the DOT and other federal agencies have yet to issue a similar waiver. As a result, an iron or steel product that was greater than 95% domestic would meet the BABA requirements in the eyes of the EPA but would not meet the requirements in the eyes of the DOT.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Because the OMB has given significant discretion to each federal agency, thus far, there have been considerable inconsistencies in how it is being implemented across agencies. Therefore, it is imperative that project sponsors, engineers, contractors and distributors understand (1) what federal agency is involved in the applicable project, (2) what federal financial assistance program is providing the funding and (3) the timing of the award or grant. First, if there are different BABA requirements, depending on

the federal agency or federal financial assistance program, manufacturers will need a clear understanding of those facts to provide a certification. Furthermore, as BABA's guidance, waivers and implementation have been rolled out piecemeal over the last two years, many of the waivers or implementation guidance have effective dates that may or may not apply to the project, depending on the timing of the award or grant.

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOUR DUCTILE IRON PIPE PURCHASE?

As noted earlier, it only introduces a few changes in our sector of the waterworks industry. All our pipes are manufactured in our three domestic manufacturing facilities in Provo, UT, Coshocton, OH, and Phillipsburg, NJ. The areas we will want to ensure we have covered before ordering material will be with accessories. We will want to make sure we know if the gaskets and any TR Flex® Kits must be domestic or not since we

offer both domestic and non-domestic options in each of those products and, as above, depending on the funding agency and federal assistance program, both could be acceptable at different times. The key to navigating all this is time and communication. If you are quoting a project, you must communicate with your local sales representative the answers to the questions above (1) what federal agency is involved, (2) what federal financial assistance program is funding the project and (3) the timing of the award so that we can help you navigate the requirements. We are also happy to provide any certification needs for your BABA, AIS, Buy America and Buy American Act projects. Upon receiving a purchase order, we must identify which certificate you need so that they can be prepared, and you can be assured that McWane Ductile supplies the correct products for your project.



Our Way of Saying Thanks!

McWane Ductile (MD), a proud member of the McWane, Inc., family, has consistently demonstrated its commitment to giving back to the communities it serves.

The recent charitable donations made by MD hold a special significance, aligning with the spirit of Thanksgiving and exemplifying how corporate philanthropy can serve as a powerful expression of gratitude.

In partnership with Coshocton County, McWane Ductile — Ohio (MDO) took a momentous step by donating a generous sum of \$500,000 toward the construction of the "McWane River Walk" in Coshocton, Ohio. This project represents more than just an asphalt pathway; it symbolizes the company's dedication to fostering a healthier, more vibrant community by connecting neighborhoods, local businesses and schools and providing a safe and

accessible multiuse path. The River Walk is a testament to the company's appreciation for the community that supports its operations.

In New Jersey, McWane, Inc., the parent company of McWane Ductile — New Jersey (MDNJ), exhibited a similar commitment to giving back. With a substantial donation of \$1 million, they partnered with the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation to support the construction of a state-of-the-art multipurpose recreational field at Walters Park in Phillipsburg. This sports facility will provide opportunities for local youth, particularly those who might not otherwise have access to such resources. By investing in developing a recreational



Pictured left to right: Amy Crown — Coshocton County Chamber Executive Director, Phillip McWane — McWane Chairman and Dane Shryock — Coshocton County Commissioner discuss plans for future connectivity to the McWane River Walk.

facility, McWane, Inc., acknowledges the importance of empowering youth, fostering teamwork and promoting



Pictured left to right: Keith Mallett — MDNJ VP/GM, Jeffrey Finegan — Phillipsburg Youth Development Park Committee Member, Chuck Brady — Senior Vice President of Development, Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation.



Pictured during the McWane Field at Walters Park Groundbreaking are Phillipsburg residents, town officials, Cal Ripkin Sr. Foundation reps, McWane, Inc., reps and McWane Ductile reps.

physical activity. It also underscores our commitment to the future and shows gratitude to the local area for their support.

At McWane Ductile — Utah (MDU), charitable contributions benefit a broad spectrum of recipients, ranging from schools and churches to first responders, children's hospitals and suicide prevention programs. With more than \$40K in yearly donations, MDU's commitment to the Provo area is unmistakable. These contributions reflect a deep-rooted understanding of the Thanksgiving spirit. While the holiday often revolves around gratitude for the abundance in our lives, it is also a time to extend a helping hand to those in need. MDU's giving program demonstrates that gratitude can take many forms, from supporting education to aiding in critical health and safety initiatives.

In every community we call home, McWane Ductile has adopted a comprehensive approach to philanthropy. These charitable



Pictured during the McWane River Walk Ribbon Cutting from left to right: Heather Rainwater — MDO Operations Manager — Flange/401, Jeff Otterstedt — MD EVP, Dane Shryock — Coshocton County Commissioner, Kevin Bense — McWane Group President of Waterworks, Tom Crawford — MDO VP/GM, Phillip McWane — McWane Chairman, Rick Conkle — Coshocton County Commissioner, Mary Beck — Coshocton County Administrator/Project Coordinator and Gary Fischer — Coshocton County Commissioner.

actions align with the essence of the Thanksgiving holiday and demonstrate that giving back is not just a corporate responsibility but a heartfelt way of saying "thanks" to the communities that have played an integral role in McWane Ductile's success.

NEWS TO NOTE

WE'RE KEEPING IT CLEAN

In September, McWane Ductile — Ohio (MDO) was recognized by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) with a Silver Encouraging Environmental Excellence Award. The award recognizes the facility's participation in the Keep it Clean Challenge and implementation of energy efficiency upgrades, including purchasing regenerative burners, installing LED lighting and using variable efficiency drives.

According to the Ohio EPA, the Encouraging Environmental Excellence awards recognize an organization's exceptional achievements in environmental stewardship, which aims to reduce the impact of business or organizational activities on the

environment beyond measures required by any permit or rule, producing a better environment, conserving natural resources and resulting in long-term economic benefits. The judging criteria includes 15 aspects of environmental stewardship, including sustainable materials and purchasing, pollution prevention, energy efficiency and employee involvement.

"Ohio is the heart of sustainability, and we're committed to recognizing those at the forefront of innovation and stewardship," said Ohio EPA Director



Pictured left to right: Anne M. Vogel — Ohio EPA Director, Beth Mullen — MDO Environmental Manager, Tom Kistler — MDO Assistant Environmental Manager and Laura Frazee — MDO Environmental Specialist.

Anne M. Vogel. "We're excited to reward companies that are helping children grow up in a safe environment and partnering to support the communities they call home. Their work inspires all of us to do more, and we are proud to share in their success."

WE'RE BEATING THE HEAT

In July, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) sponsored a Beat the Heat Contest

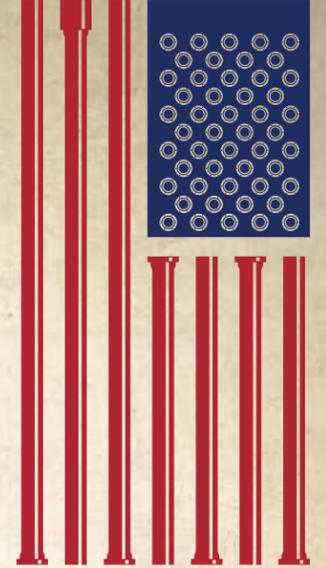


Ryan Rinkes — MDO Finishing Supervisor, monitors the annealing oven.

to raise awareness of the dangers of heat exposure in indoor and outdoor workplaces. The contest focused on educating stakeholders on hazardous heat, which is important because heat is the leading weather-related killer and is becoming more dangerous as world temperatures rise, especially in the summer months.

OSHA received 195 submissions from 40 states, the District of Columbia and Guam, with 18 winners selected in five categories.

McWane Ductile took top honors in the Highlighting Indoor Heat Hazards category by submitting a multichannel communication campaign to increase awareness among their workforce about heat risk. The campaign encouraged protective measures when workers are exposed to heat in the foundry and elsewhere. Their communication tools included a direct mailer, a video, a blog, social media posts, heat awareness slides for digital monitors around the facilities and heat awareness posts for their employee mobile app.



IRON STRONG IS AMERICAN STRONG



MADE IN USA

- ▶ Support Local and National Economy
- ▶ Higher Quality Standards
- ▶ Ethical Labor Practices
- ▶ Shorter Supply Chain Lead Times
- ▶ Transparency and Accountability
- ▶ Local Support and Training Available



Experience the difference in products that reflect the values and craftsmanship of our great nation. Join the movement and choose American-made Ductile iron pipe for a brighter, more sustainable future.

McWane Ductile: Building Iron Strong Utilities for Generations.

McWaneDuctile.com



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



West

PROJECT PROFILE



PROJECT PROFILES

The State Center Community College District is an agency in Fresno, California, that helps provide training facilities and campuses for first responders like the police and fire academies. Funds obtained through specific measures within Fresno County allowed the infrastructure of this facility to be built,

and proper planning with the contractor through distribution allowed the water material on-site to be Ductile iron. Over 8,500 feet of 16-inch Ductile iron was installed throughout this 40-acre site. The site will include the handling and storing of enough water for a burn tower used in fire academy training.

The procurement of this Ductile iron material was crucial in keeping the construction schedule and timeline intact. All the 16-inch pipeline material was delivered and installed within the time frames required. Core & Main was a great partner in ensuring the project specifications and timelines were met.



Sales Region: Midwest
Sales Representative: Dan Flaig
Project Location: Chicago, IL
Project Name: O'Hare 21 East/West Watermain Project
Project Owner/Utility: O'Hare Airport
Project Engineer: HNTB
Project Contractor: Turner Paschen Aviation Partners
Project Distributor: Ferguson Waterworks

Types of Ductile iron pipe used on the project:

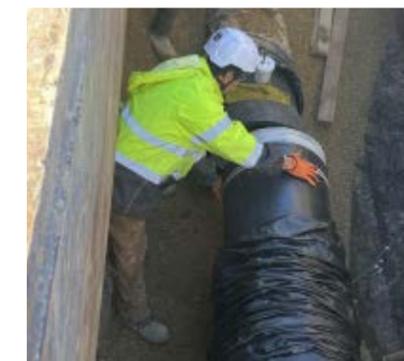
| DIAMETER | JOINT | CLASS | FOOTAGE |
|----------|----------|-------|---------|
| 20" | TR Flex® | 53 | 5,600 |



"Through the Turner Paschen Aviation Partners bidding and procurement process, McWane Ductile was selected to provide 5600 LF of 20-inch Ductile iron water pipe with TR Flex® joint. This pipe will be utilized on the O'Hare 21 East/West Watermain project," stated Tyrone "Tye" Baasch, General Superintendent for Turner Paschen Aviation Partners. "The East/West Watermain Project is another key enabling component of the overall O'Hare 21 program. This project will complete a perimeter watermain loop that facilitates the removal of an existing 20-inch watermain that runs diagonally across the central airfield. Removal of the existing main is part of the process to create airfield space for two new satellite concourses.

visited the McWane Ductile plant in Coshocton, Ohio, to inspect the pipe. While in Ohio, he was able to see how Ductile iron pipe is manufactured and tested along with the quality control procedures that the foundry has in place."

"In my opinion, McWane Ductile's Quality Control program is top shelf," said Baasch. "The checkpoint processes that they have established at critical points throughout the production sequence exceed the requirements of the specific ANSI/AWWA and NSF testing elements. It shows that the McWane culture and integrity is well established and a testament to the company's long history."



"This pipe was purchased through Ferguson Waterworks and directly shipped to O'Hare Airport in Chicago, Illinois. Prior to shipment, Mr. Baasch

PROJECT PROFILE

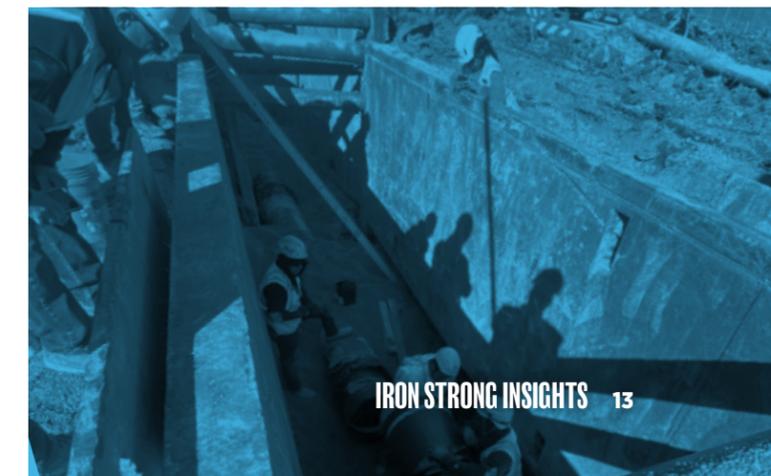
Midwest



Sales Region: West
Sales Representative: Bill Kleczka
Project Location: Fresno, CA
Project Name: First Responders Learning Center
Project Owner/Utility: State Center Community College District
Project Engineer: Blair Church and Flynn
Project Contractor: Bush Construction
Project Distributor: Core & Main Fresno

Types of Ductile iron pipe used on the project:

| DIAMETER | JOINT | CLASS | FOOTAGE |
|----------|--------|-------|---------|
| 16" | Tyton® | 250 | 8,518 |





Northeast

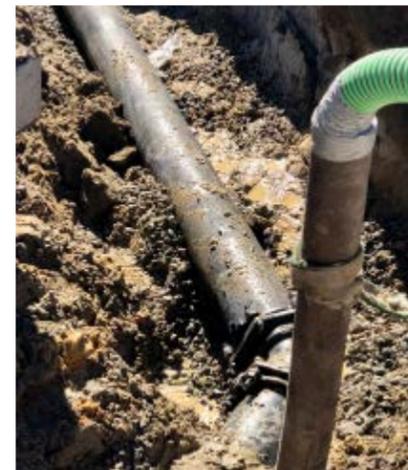
PROJECT PROFILE

McWane Ductile teamed with a new distributor, LB Water Virginia Beach, and Chesapeake-based Utility Contractor Peters and White to tackle the roughly 5,000 linear feet of both water and sewer pipe in the historic Wards Corner in Norfolk, Virginia. The Wards Corner area is experiencing an impressive revitalization of a turn-of-the-century shopping district and residential area, with significant anchor retail store commitments coming into the area. The city of Norfolk has long been a fan of ductile iron and recently

decided to add zinc coating to the current Class 52 specifications to have an added layer of security as most of this project is in the roadway.

Most of eastern Virginia has a sub-3-foot water table, and Peters and White were required to pump water out of the trench throughout construction

in order to maintain a good trench. The city specified McWane Sure Stop 350™ Gaskets as the restraining system outside the fittings. We appreciate the opportunity to work with the many integral folks on this project, and we are proud to provide strong, long-lasting Ductile iron pipe to revitalize this historic area.



Types of Ductile iron pipe used on the project:

| DIAMETER | JOINT | CLASS | FOOTAGE |
|----------|--------|-------|---------|
| 6" | Tyton® | 50 | 360 |
| 8" | Tyton® | 50 | 5,300 |
| 12" | Tyton® | 50 | 600 |

Sales Region: South
Sales Representative: Jaycie Howell
Project Location: Hot Springs, AR
Project Name: 2022 City of Hot Springs Improvements
Project Owner/Utility: City of Hot Springs
Project Contractor: Coakley Construction
Project Engineer: Hanson & McLaughlin, LLC



The city of Hot Springs in Arkansas has a job each year that encompasses some improvement projects needed around the city that are mostly replacing cast iron lines or expanding their water system. They refer to this job when it goes out to bid as the annual Hot Springs Improvements Project. This has been an annual bid since 2013 and is typically designed by Karl Hanson, P.E., with Hanson & McLaughlin, LLC.

projects and had them all completed and tested successfully without problem by September 2023. These projects included replacing cast iron lines and expansions on Twin Points Road, Laser Street, Kimery Park, Central Avenue, and Lakeland Drive with a total of 600 feet of 12-inch, 5,300 feet of 8-inch and 360 feet of 6-inch Ductile iron pipe.

a cast iron line on Holly Street that was installed in 1876. This specific line was the city's induction into the Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association's Century Club. This annual job is a testament to the durability of iron pipe.

The 2022 Annual Hot Springs Improvements job first bid in October 2022 and rebid in June 2023. Coakley Construction, a local contractor in the city of Hot Springs, and a loyal McWane Ductile user, won these

As the city's cast iron lines continue to age out of service, they plan to replace them with Ductile iron pipelines to maintain their system's efficiency and inherent strength. The 2023 Improvements job has recently been awarded to Coakley Construction, and within that job scope, they will replace



South

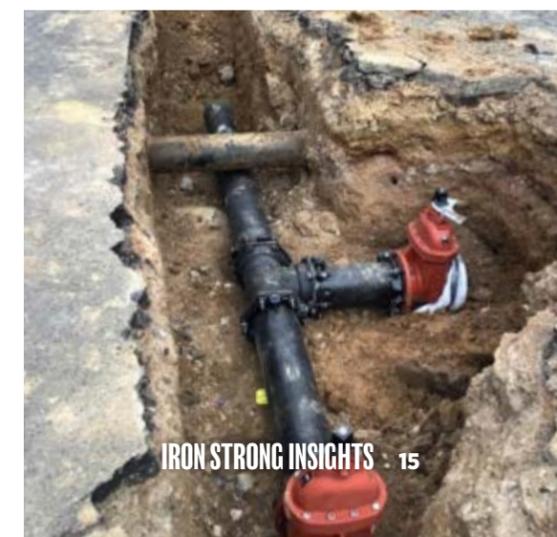
PROJECT PROFILE



Sales Region: Northeast
Sales Representative: Todd Soady
Project Location: Norfolk, VA
Project Owner/Utility: Norfolk, Virginia Service Authority
Project Engineer: Richard Dempsey PE
Project Contractor: Peters and White
Project Distributor: LB Water Virginia Beach

Types of Ductile iron pipe used on the project:

| DIAMETER | JOINT | CLASS | FOOTAGE |
|----------|--------|-------|---------|
| 4" | Tyton® | 52 | 300 |
| 6" | Tyton® | 52 | 400 |
| 8" | Tyton® | 52 | 4,500 |
| 12" | Tyton® | 52 | 600 |





DEAR DITCH DOCTOR,

My crew is telling me they ran out of the pipe lube that came with the pipe. I'm unsure how we ran out of lube on the third day of a 2,000-foot project, but that is a separate issue. I'm considering my options here. Option 1 is we have some lube left over from an old project. Option 2 is to purchase some pipe lube nearby, or option 3 is to use my operator's suggestion to get some cooking oil from the local grocery like he did back in the 90s. We've really got to get some pipe installed so we can get to the football game on Saturday Priorities, right?

Thanks,
Lost Without Lube in Loveland

DEAR LOST WITHOUT LUBE,

I feel ya, bro. I can't wait for some Saturday afternoon football myself. I've been working hard all week and will be ready to relax! To address your first issue, which isn't the point of your inquiry but should be noted, the person who received and signed for the materials at your job site should have verified that ALL materials were received and properly staged for the project. That would have eliminated the root cause of your lack of lube. In response to your three suggestions, none of which are exceptionally good, here's what the Ditch Doctor would recommend: If considering using older lube, you must determine the brand, the age of the lube and how well it has been stored.

Is the brand recommended by the pipe supplier? If you can't verify this, don't use it. Does the lube look separated, oily, puttied, or hard from old age or poor storage? If so, chuck it! Purchasing lube from a local distributor is a better option than using old lube, but a word of caution: There are pipe lubes out there that work very well with the product it was intended for, but not for others — and cooking oil? Seriously? This is definitely a bad idea as seemingly safe, slippery stuff such as Crisco, Vaseline and common greases often contain ingredients harmful to rubber, such as petrolatums.

So, what does this boil down to? Using the pipe lube the pipe supplier provides is always the best option. Who wants to have difficulty passing a hydrostatic test due to using unproven accessories? McWane Ductile ships pipe lubricant with every load of pipe. Currently, lubricants approved by McWane Ductile include Phoenix XL-27 and Black Swan. These products have been thoroughly tested for their effectiveness in our Universal Test Facility located in Ohio. If you are in dire need, contact your local McWane Ductile representative, and let's work together to expedite the resolution of your situation. Then we'll all go watch some football!

Sincerely,
The Ditch Doctor



DEAR DITCH DOCTOR,

Winter weather is upon us, and I thought we had taken some precautions regarding accessories and cold weather. My buddy Joseph mentioned heating the gaskets with a blow torch, and I'm not so sure about that. Do you have any good recommendations for warming up our gaskets besides reminding me to have a jacket under the back seat of the truck, which I unfortunately forgot today?

Thanks,
Blown by the Weather in Waukesha

DEAR BLOWN BY THE WEATHER,

Sorry to hear you forgot a jacket. Hopefully, you can warm up with a hot cup of coffee. It always makes my day better. I am also glad you are thinking about winter. You're on the right track there. Proper storage of accessories is essential all year round, and some additional recommendations for cold weather months exist.

I'm glad you have reservations about using a blow torch to heat gaskets. Gaskets should be stored in a warm, dry place, and heating the gaskets just before installation is definitely a good idea, but not with a blow torch! Placing the gaskets in a heated truck cab or heated job site trailer is best. One unique idea I've seen is a crew that placed a heater in a toolbox and mounted the toolbox on the side of the trench box. Rather ingenious. Pipe lube should be stored in the same manner as the gaskets. Pipe lube supplied by your pipe supplier can be used in sub-freezing temperatures but should not be allowed to freeze. Reviewing the product's installation guide and MSDS is also a good recommendation. Go to the McWaneDuctile.com Learning Center tab for Installation Guides and Downloadable Tip Sheets.

Sincerely,
The Ditch Doctor



IRON STRONG

CHECKLIST FOR RECEIVING YOUR DUCTILE IRON PIPE

McWaneDuctile.com

WHAT YOU MUST KNOW BEFORE YOU LET THE TRUCK GO

SAFETY FIRST

- Unload your pipe in a safe location, free from traffic hazards. The truck and trailer require ample room to maneuver.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Carefully inspect all bands or straps securing the pipe as they may have come loose during transit.

ESTABLISH UNLOADING AREA

- Unloading area should be level, free of debris and potholes to maintain the stability of the truck and trailer.
- Look up and look around. The area should be clear of overhead electric lines. Contact with a power line can be dangerous — even deadly.
- Area should be clear of all traffic. Vehicles, pedestrians, truck drivers or other employees not involved in the unloading process should stay away from the area.
- Ensure there's enough lighting for early morning or evening loading or unloading.
- Ensure proper equipment is on-site to handle the weight of the pipe and to safely unload the pipe.

INSPECT YOUR PIPE SHIPMENT

- Verify your quantities. Count the sticks of pipe while they are on the truck, making sure they match the quantities on your Bill of Lading (BOL).
- Examine the pipe identification label, which indicates the following:
 - Pipe Size (Diameter)
 - Pipe Class
 - Joint Type
 - Linings
 - Coating
 - Cast Date
- Create a separate stack for the gauged pipe. The gauged pipe will be used for field cuts.

WHERE ARE YOUR GASKETS AND PIPE LUBE?

- Confirm the quantity of gaskets by checking the bags or crate they arrived in. The driver may have placed gaskets in the truck cab, protecting them from the elements or theft.
- Once you have your gaskets, protect them by storing them out of the elements.
- Each load of pipe will come with pipe lube. Pipe lube is typically stored in large bags that can often be found in the crates with your gaskets.

DID YOU RECEIVE A BILL OF LADING (BOL)?

- The BOL is a required document that serves as a receipt of freight services between the carrier and the freight shipper. The BOL serves as the Proof of Delivery (POD). Ensure all necessary details are listed to process and invoice the shipment correctly, such as:
 - The date of delivery
 - The number of units
 - The freight classification
 - The weight, etc.

WHEN TO SIGN THE BOL

- Are you the person designated to receive the shipment? If so, be sure to confirm the following before signing the proof of delivery:
 - The shipment was intended for you
 - The shipment's entirety arrived
 - The shipment arrived undamaged
- If you find that product is missing, you've received the wrong product or the product is damaged, mark your BOL with details. If damage is visible, take a photograph for proof and have the driver sign as a witness. **Once you sign the BOL, the product is yours.**

For more details, see our informative blog "Receiving Your Ductile Iron Pipe" at McWaneDuctile.com/blog or contact your local McWane Ductile Sales Representative.

CUT AND SAVE



PROPER GASKET STORAGE & CARE TIP SHEET

McWaneDuctile.com

GASKETS are critical components in your Ductile iron piping system. Gaskets are made of compound rubber materials that can gradually weather, dry out and deteriorate. Gaskets that are not properly stored may experience external elongation, compression, shrinkage or other types of deformation, eventually leading to cracking or permanent change of shape.

As with most rubber products, there is no established maximum shelf life for pipe gaskets. To fully benefit from your gaskets, store them properly to minimize deterioration. *

DON'Ts FOR GASKET STORAGE

- Do not expose gaskets to greases, oils, solvents in liquid or vapor form, strong acids, alkalis or anything corrosive to rubber.
- Do not store gaskets in freezing conditions.
- Do not lay gaskets on equipment, truck beds, warehouse floors or any land that might contain pesticides.
- Do not expose gaskets to ultra-violet (UV) light, direct sunlight or strong fluorescent lights.
- Do not expose gaskets to ozone generating equipment such as electric motors, mercury vapor lamps and high voltage electrical equipment.
- Do not hang gaskets on sharp edges as this can create cuts in the gaskets.

DO's FOR GASKET STORAGE

- Store in a cool, dry area and minimize exposure to dust.
- Optimum storage temperature range is between 40°F (5°C) and 80°F (27°C).
- During freezing conditions, keep gaskets stored in a heated storage place. Gaskets should be allowed to warm prior to being placed into service.
- During extreme heat outdoors, avoid storing gaskets inside pipe. This is the same principle as with the inside of a parked car in the summer. It's always hotter inside the vehicle than it is outside.
- Avoid leaving gaskets out in the elements, in the rain or on the ground where they can collect unwanted debris, or even pesticides.
- Storing gaskets in polyethylene containers, cardboard containers or polyethylene-lined craft bags offer good protection against light.
- Following extended storage, carefully inspect gaskets for damage.

* Rubber product failure is a progressive failure that increases with time. The typical mode of failure is surface hardening and cracking. McWane Ductile offers these guidelines but makes no guarantee that gaskets will be usable for any specific period of time.



CUT AND SAVE

GASKET QUESTIONS?

Contact your local McWane Ductile Representative when in doubt of your gasket's condition and be sure to check out our Iron Strong blogs for water professionals at McWaneDuctile.com/blog.

MIKE DODGE, VP SALES & MARKETING



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