

August 2021

Gas Circuit Rider Newsletter

Public Awareness Program (PAP) – Important Updates and Common Issues

- If you have not already done so, in Section 5 of your PAP add information about conducting PAP in other languages: **The Public Awareness Program will be conducted in English and in other languages that reach 25% of the population based on the most recent US census data.**
- Some Public Awareness Plans need to include the Excavator Audit Form (EA-1). This would be completed annually to document that your public awareness plan meets the criteria by participating in damage prevention meetings with excavators. Participating in a documented pre-construction meeting for a major project in the municipal would also qualify.
- Your PAP should include review of the PA-1 Form. Most plans call for a meeting with public officials on a three-year cycle. The form should be filled out at least every 3 years and have a senior public official sign off after the meeting.
- We have a useful Public Awareness Program Annual Compliance Audit Form that can be used for auditing and to document review of your Public Awareness Program.
- I'd like to acknowledge Eagle Bend and Clarissa. Both did a nice job of putting their Public Awareness Plan into a 3-ring binder, making it especially helpful to document all of the information they send out.

Suggestion for Supporting Meter Sets

Many operators that have switched from steel to plastic are having issues with supporting customer meter sets. Municipals like Hibbing Public Utility have been using a support stake on their plastic service risers with long-term success.

Hibbing Utility installs the support stake with a U-bend riser and attaches just above ground level. The support stake holds up the customer meter set without strain to customer piping.

RW LYALL makes a [35" support stake](#) that can be installed on an anodeless riser (sold by Groebner or Ferguson).

Included With This Issue

EA-1 Form

- For documenting meetings with excavators

PA-1 Form

- For documenting meetings with public officials and emergency responders

Public Awareness Program

Annual Compliance Audit

Form

- For documenting review of your Public Awareness Program

Dura-Line's NGD Pipe

Customer Update #13

(effective 7/28/2021)

- Important information about Dura-Line's Small Diameter Pipe Manufactured in Gainesville

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According to Dura-Line's NGD Pipe Customer Update #13 (effective 7/28/2021), it has been determined that some of the small diameter NGD pipe produced at their Gainesville plant was found to have variations in wall thickness, below specifications. The thin-walled abnormalities occurred from "coil whip" as coils were taken off the line at the plant. The machine loaded up and the pipe was extruded faster to unload the extra material. Dura-Line does not state how long this occurred and stating that this only occurred at the Gainesville plant.

Steps Operators Should Take Now:

1. Look at the print line of any/all Dura-Line pipe you have in inventory that is ½ inch to 1½ inch diameter.
2. Determine where the pipe was produced:
 - o The Gainesville plant is marked with a "G" on the print line. Refer to Dura-Line's NGD Pipe Customer Update for details on how to identify place of manufacture. If you have any of the pipe in question, **contact your distributor to return the pipe to Dura-Line.**
 - o The Erwin plant is marked with an "E" on the print line. Pipe from the Erwin plant is not affected. It is cleared for use in operator's gas system.
3. Read [Dura-Line's NGD Pipe Customer Update #13](#).

At this time, I am not sure what the regulators are going to require operators to do regarding this matter. There may be information that needs to be put in the integrity management plan, or other accelerated surveys, patrolling, or operating pressure considerations that might have to be implemented.

For now I wanted to share the facts. **Until the federal or state regulators make some recommendations, operators should wait to see what should be done about pipe that has already been installed in the system.**



As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

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