

Fusible PVC Pipe Installed

Pipe meets the requirements of a challenging situation

By Aram Kalousdian, editor

A water system improvement project in Riga Township included the installation of approximately 2,400 feet of 12-inch water main. Approximately 1,240 feet of it was installed with an open cut method and 1,160 feet was directional drilled.

The project began in September and it was completed in October. Underground Solutions, Inc. Fusible C-900™ polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe was used for the directional drilled portion of the project. Standard bell and spigot C-900 pipe was used for the open cut portion of the project.

Pipe that would meet a challenging situation for the directional drilled portion of the project was needed. “The specifications called for Certa-Lok pipe. We weren’t sure that that would stay together the way it was supposed to when it was pulled back through the heavy ground we encountered. We also had some concerns surrounding the grade change and required deflections at the drain crossings,” Michael S. Fraker, project manager for Fonson, Inc., of Brighton, said. Fonson, Inc. was the general contractor for the project. Certa-Lok is a PVC pipe with a coupling that utilizes a locking spline and gasket.

“The perceived advantages for us with the C-900 fusible pipe were the added flexibility it afforded us with alignment and we wouldn’t be pulling



A Ditch Witch JT2720 is used on the directional drilled portion of the Riga Township water main project.

back a pipe with a gasketed coupling on it,” Fraker said.

“We thought we could get a longer pull with the Fusible C-900. In addition, we thought we could accomplish the grade changes that were necessary to maintain the clearance underneath two drains.”

“The characteristics of the Fusible C-900 pipe are different from regular C-900 because it has the fusible qualities. It provides a fully restrained, gasket-less run of C-900 that can be directional bored, slip lined, open cut, or pipe burst,” Louis Carrara, of Carrara Consulting, L.L.C., said. Carrara



12-inch C-900 polyvinyl chloride water main is fused together for the Riga Township project.

Consulting is Underground Solutions’ Michigan representative.

Standard butt-fusion equipment with technical modifications made for PVC fusion is utilized to reliably fuse Underground Solutions pipe systems.

RC Directional Boring, Inc., of Howell, was a subcontractor on the project and Tetra Tech Engineering, of Ann Arbor, was the engineering consultant. The Michigan distributor that provided the 12-inch DR-18 Fusible C-900 pipe to Fonson, Inc. was National Waterworks, Inc., of Ypsilanti. ■

“The perceived advantages for us with the **C-900 fusible pipe** were the **added flexibility** it afforded us with alignment and we wouldn’t be **pulling back a pipe** with a gasketed coupling on it.

— Michael S. Fraker, project manager for Fonson, Inc., of Brighton

Project

Installation of water main
in Riga Township

General contractor

Fonson, Inc., of Brighton